

**Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**5 April 2020**  
**MINUTES approved May 2020**

Present on Zoom: Janine Bruton, Joanne Cowan, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Lorina Hall, Mary Hansen, John Hatten (clerking), Virginia Herrick, Dorrie Jordan, Heather Katahdin, Mary Ann Percy (recording), Allan Richardson, Susan Richardson, Allen Stockbridge

**1. Opening Worship** at 11:50 am

**2. Clerk's statement on clerking**

This is my last Meeting with Attention to Business as clerk. As best as I've been able while clerking each month, I have done my best to try to see what is best for our whole Bellingham Quaker community. To do so requires humility in the knowledge that I truly *don't* know what is best for the whole except as I am connected with the Spirit that connects us all. But even then, do I know that the feeling of connection with Spirit is true? It is too easy to think, "Yes, this is it!" And yet, if history teaches me anything, I know that what I believed yesterday may not be what I believe today. Being true to my heart while being open to the divine is a kind of magic that I believe will continue to be my lifetime's work. I wish us all the best as we each pursue the magic.

A Friend asked that we minute our appreciation to John for his skillful clerking over the past couple of years and particularly for his faithfulness to Quaker process and not being wedded to outcomes.

**3. Review of last month's minutes--Friends approved the minutes**

**4. Member concerns--**

- a. Last month's member concern r/t a newcomer potluck is not relevant at this time.

**5. Review of agenda**

**6. Items for worship and action**

- A. Do we want to pay \$10-15/month in addition to the amount we're now paying for Zoom to allow Friends who can only access by phone to do so beyond this month?

John will purchase the phone-only accessibility in addition to our current on-line only Zoom access. Don Goldstein will contact Nancy, and Joanne Cowan will contact Lynn Lohr to provide them with the call in number/s and it will also be posted in the enews.

- B. Meetinghouse committee: Discussion eliciting input to the committee:

i. There have been a number of changes with regard to our tentative agreement with The Majestic, which have been outlined in the Meetinghouse Report. In addition there is the possibility that the facility will be rented to the Intergenerational High School.

We will lay over decisions with regard to a rental agreement with The Majestic until at least next month, given the changes that they have introduced, as well as all the current uncertainty due to Covid 19.

The Meeting Clerk will inform Explorations that we may be interested in continuing to rent the space beyond summer for at least storage and also physical Meeting when that becomes necessary and possible. (John had previously informed Explorations that we would be moving sometime during the summer.)

(If things do move forward with The Majestic in the future, a Friend suggested that we ask for rental credit for the Sundays that we're not able to meet d/t full weekend rentals of The Majestic.)

ii. 2207 Verona Street property

MH Committee members explained the details of the location, wetland issues, parking (which would likely be at the adjoining Boys and Girls Club.).

Friends raised concerns related to the availability of parking. We would not get a building permit unless we had plans for sufficient parking.

The owner has and will continue to conduct a wetland study. There are many variables in the process of city permitting for building on wetlands.

(A Friend observed that w/o a long-term guarantee of/lease for use of the Boys and Girls Club parking lot, would we still wish to move forward with consideration of this purchase. Is there an/other parking option/s? There are parking lots at many nearby/adjacent industrial sites. Due to the wetness of the site, it is unlikely we could build a structure/Meetinghouse plus a sufficiently large parking lot for all Friends, though it may be possible to have a few handicapped spaces.)

Friends agreed to authorize MHC to continue to explore the possibility of purchasing/building on this site, to include meeting with appropriate COB personnel, and a contractor.

Friends were asked to go to see the site in the near future and let MHC know their thoughts, especially since the next steps in the process will entail a considerable amount of work.

C. Nominating: The Clerk of the committee reviewed items from the report:

i. Consideration of seasoning -- it has always been the practice of Nominating Committee that if someone on the committee feels a leading to a position, they recuse themselves from the discernment around that nomination.

Over the past month, we sought additional seasoning for the nomination of Virginia Herrick to the position of Recording Clerk from members of Worship and Ministry (who were not directly involved in parts of the slate that would be affected), as well as another Friend who might have been considered for the nomination. All Friends we consulted, after discerning, felt clear that the nomination was sound and should stand.

Last month, Friends accepted for seasoning, as part of the slate, two nominees for FGC Sponsored Attender. FGC Gathering has been cancelled because of the pandemic. It is unclear what will happen now, or whether there will be any attempt to hold the Gathering virtually. Both nominees have expressed a desire to go next year instead. Since approval for two nominees was only given for this year, Nominating Committee would appreciate the guidance of Meeting as they proceed.

Friends asked to lay over discussion of the sponsored FGC attender to early next year.

ii. Approving nominations

a. Friends accepted the name of Larry Thompson as an at-large member of MHC through 2022 for seasoning. He agrees to serve with the understanding that the committee will be meeting quarterly. Nominating Committee will confirm that he will also be available as needed. His service on MHC is welcome in either case.

b. Friends approved the NomCom slate as presented (which has been seasoning since last month's MFWFB)

iii. The committee clerk reminds Friends that this is the year (every 5) we agree to review all committee and individual job descriptions. Nominating Committee will send out current job descriptions to committee clerks and individuals serving the Meeting.

D. Worship & Ministry:

i. The Committee Clerk read the query for April

ii. The Committee nominates Don Goldstein for service on Nominating Committee. Friends accepted his name for seasoning ]

iii. W&M is making the following recommendation: When a person is to receive funds through or from a committee on which that person also sits, that committee is advised to seek clearness from W&M (or Pastoral Care in the event it is someone currently serving on W &M) in order to increase transparency and to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. The job descriptions of Pastoral Care and Worship & Ministry will be reviewed in consideration of this recommendation.

iv. State of the Society--Minor edits were made, the report was accepted, and the committee expressed appreciation to Rachel VB for writing/organizing and Virginia H for editing. It will be forwarded to PNQM by the outgoing clerk of W&M.

E. Finance: The committee clerk reviewed the Finance Committee reports and the Treasurer reminded Friends that contributions continue to be welcomed via snail mail and electronic transfer.

Friends expressed appreciation for the work of Finance Committee

7. Closing worship at 230PM