

Bellingham Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
8 March 2020
MINUTES
Approved April 2020

Present: Jessica Bee, Jean Brechan, Janine Bruton, Joanne Cowan, Don Goldstein, Wendy Goldstein, Lorina Hall, John Hatten (clerk), Virginia Herrick, Dorrie Jordan, Rolland Lee, Mary Ann Percy (recording), Susan Richardson, Larry Thompson, Leanne Truong

1. Opening Worship at 11:50 am

2. Clerk's statement on clerking – As my time as clerk is soon to end, I remind everyone that, while there is only one clerk, everyone can support the discernment of the meeting by supporting the group in certain clerking practices. A clerk can:

- Work toward a spiritually safe environment.
- Help to bring out the full range of views on a particular matter, but keep in mind that it is not a purpose of the meeting to hear everything that could be said on a matter. Help people to say what may be difficult for them to say. Invite “minority” views before they are overwhelmed by the many.
- Speak the difficult truths for the group. In any group, some things may not be said to avoid conflict or because they are too painful. If they belong in the group’s deliberations, the clerk has a responsibility to speak them, or ask someone else to do this.

We can all support our process with our awareness of, and actions that support the above.

3. Review of agenda

4. Review of last month's minutes--Minutes were approved, with a minor edit added later.

5. Items for worship and action

A. Key Holder:

Inclement weather policy was accepted for seasoning until next month with the question of what would happen if the eNews editor and the web manager were unavailable. When they will be out of town, the eNews editor will inform the back-up eNews editor that the latter is responsible for sending out notification of Meeting's cancellation due to weather when that is the case.

B. Newcomer Welcoming potluck--A host is needed for this potluck, likely to take place in May, 2020. Please contact Don G. if you are interested/available; he will do all the arranging.

C. Nominating Committee:

- i. Rolland Lee received final approval for appointment to the Children's Program Committee through 2022.
- ii. Consideration of nominations:
 - a. The committee clerk explained that there are two new possible positions based upon Friends' leadings. A Friend suggested that the proposed new "Backup Keyholder" position could be changed to "Keyholder--on call only" and not be a new position. Friends approved.
 - b. A Friend asked which of our 3 emails lists would be used by the Quarterly Donations Email editor. There are 3 email lists-- i) everyone in our directory; ii) MFWFB list--those who have expressed interest in MFWFB who receive documents and reports relevant to MFWFB; iii) eNews list--the largest list Friends agreed that the directory email list will be the one used.
 - c. The committee clerk reviewed the reasons for requesting that two specific Friends nominated as sponsored attenders to FGC Gathering 2020. A Friend asked if some of the funds for these attenders could come from the Quaker Activity Aid Fund. A Friend on Finance Committee pointed out that the Pysanky Fund has recently received \$5000 from income on our investments. Friends approved asking the Finance Committee to determine the source of funds for the two sponsored attenders.
 - d. Friends minuted their appreciation to the Nominating Committee, especially given the smaller number of Friends available to fill the available positions this year. The committee clerk expressed appreciation for Friends' willingness to participate, help and say "yes" to service to our community.
 - e. Friends accepted for seasoning the nominating slate as presented, with the exception of the new role of backup keyholder as noted above.

The position of Assistant to the Recording Clerk whose job it has been to collect and distribute draft minutes, committee reports and other documents prior to MFWFB each month will be laid down and this work will be done by the newly nominated Recording Clerk.

The committee clerk asked Friends to note the still-open roles (in black italics on the report) and discern if they are led to serve, informing a member of Nominating Committee if that is the case.

A Friend asked the Nominating Committee to clarify on the list of Meeting Officers and Committees why ex officio roles are as they are, and to be sure it's clear why the clerk and co-clerk serve respectively on Pastoral Care and W&M. The details of ex officio roles will be made more clear in the list of nominations.

A Friend asked why the SQCC was listed on the slate since they are shown without terms and asked if Nominating Committee was working on nominations for that Committee. The committee clerk stated that the Safe Quaker Community ad hoc committee is on the slate because it was nominated by this committee. While the ad hoc committee still has

considerable work to do, there are not currently terms for those people; NomCom feels it might be useful to have terms, but has not had time to address it yet.

D. **Meetinghouse Committee (MHC)**

- i. Do Friends want Meetinghouse Committee to continue exploration of the option of purchasing the land at 2207 Verona Street? The location being not very visible and the presence of wetlands on the property are a concern to some Friends. If we were to purchase it, we would expect to begin to build at Meetinghouse at some future time. Friends agree to ask MHC to continue to explore this property, mindful of the above concerns and any others Friends bring forward to them.
- ii. Friends agreed to authorize MHC to notify Jeanne McGee that we won't be able to make an offer on her property and to thank her for her hospitality and consideration in showing it to so many Friends last summer.
- iii. In order to make a commitment to rent the Majestic property, MHC asks BFM to allow up to \$21,000 (for three years) to be used from the Temporary Restricted Meetinghouse Fund as a backup, in the event that the substantial amount of funds already pledged and the rest of that amount likely pledged doesn't materialize. Friends approved.
- iv. The Majestic property manager has agreed to a 2.5 year lease with a subsequent opportunity to alter the rental agreement, with either party giving six months' notice to do so. Initial rent is \$900/month, to increase to \$1000 on January 1st 2021, to \$1100 on July 1st 2021, and to \$1200 on January 1st, 2022. Beginning in 2023 the rent will increase by 3% each year on January 1st.

Friends asked about room for the Library. The property manager wants to accommodate us and we also need to negotiate with the other church.

Accessibility of lower level--We would be able to decide in real time if we wished to have MFWFB or our longer Second Hour programs downstairs or upstairs

Timing of MFW --A few Friends expressed a preference for continuing to have MFW begin at 10am. Another Friend asked if we could maintain flexibility about that and move forward without a firm decision at this time.

A Friend noted that the Coop Community space, just a few blocks away, is available by donation for members; that is a possible alternate location for MFWFB.

We have sufficient funds to make an offer on the Verona Street property even if we move forward with the Majestic rental.

Friends agreed to sign the rental agreement with The Majestic and give notice to Explorations Academy that we will vacate on or shortly after 7/1/20. We understand that we will work out concerns as matters unfold. Both parties (BFM and Vine Church Community) will maintain flexibility and good faith to work out challenges as they arise.

Allen S will inform the property manager at The Majestic that we will sign the lease. The Meetinghouse Liaison will inform Explorations Academy of our plan to vacate. We will need to organize work parties to enable our move, and to formalize financial commitments that have been made.

E. Worship & Ministry:

The committee clerk highlighted sections of the W&M report. The Children's Committee Clerk will check with parents related to desired Easter activities in addition to the planned potluck.

A Transition Supper Doodle Poll is coming soon for a date in late April/early May.

State of Society Report: Edits suggested at February MFWFB and by other Friends have been sent to Rachel VB. The committee clerk will contact Rachel and ask her to make those minor edits, and then provide the final copy to Don G. for inclusion with reports and other documents sent in advance of MFWFB in April.

F. Children's Program:

The committee clerk highlighted items from their report.

7. Meeting closed with worship at 1:45 pm