

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
01/10/2016

Meeting opened promptly at 8:30 a.m. with a call to silent worship, fifteen persons present.

1. Query #7: The Peace Testimony was read by one of the members. In order to promote Community the Meeting for Business (MFB) query will now be read by one of the MFB attenders.

Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war?

2. Meeting united in the following response:

There are things we are not doing that we might do. We have, for example, abandoned the vigils on Laskin Road. There is always more we could do. The work of South Africans for truth and reconciliation is held up as an example. We recognize in our own country a past saturated with violence and a present devoted to preparations for war and to the glorification of war. We are all looking for ways to begin healing conversations with other citizens. We take comfort from the work of the school in helping to build a more peaceful community.

2. The Head of School reported. Two new international students will be joining the ninth grade for the spring semester. The boys' varsity basketball team came in second in the Peninsula Catholic School tournament over the vacation. On the last Friday before the holiday, the Quaker Youth leaders hosted a gathering for Upper School students. The boys watched a movie called "Hunting Ground" and the girls listened to a guest speaker talk about abusive relationships. Some fifty alumni attended the Alumni Homecoming event, which was very successful. Initial preparations for accreditation review by VAIS are beginning.

3. Treasurer reported that income in December was \$7700. Income for the year closed at approximately \$29,000 and expenses for the year at roughly \$27,000. The largest December expenditure was for property insurance at \$1700, which was less than expected. Treasurer is following up on some rent arrears.

Since there were no special finance committee issues, the finance committee did not meet.

Treasurer asked all to be looking for statements from him about your contributions to the meeting and to let him know if his records are in error.

4. Communication committee reported that revamping of the website continues. In addition to tracking changes and other technical tweaks, the committee is assigning ownership of the content of specific pages to the relevant committees while the communication committee controls the presentation and overall organization of the website.

The committee asks Ministers, Elders, and Overseers, (MEO) to revise the "About Us" page for the website with the goal of making it shorter and more inviting.

5. Building and Grounds reported that next work day is the 27th of second month. There are many tasks, indoor and outdoor, on the slate, including painting the kitchen. Quotes have been received for roof repairs. The options are still being weighed.

6. Peace and Social Justice committee reported that its meetings are lively, well attended and an occasion of deep sharing. Everyone is encouraged to read the detailed minutes that the committee posts.

It was noted that a number of individuals are active attenders of various vigils. The question of resuming the Laskin Road vigils would be carefully considered if concerned members or attenders raised it. Several expressions of a desire to focus on reconciliation rather than confrontation were heard.

Next meeting is on the third first day of the month at rise of meeting.

7. Young Friends committee reported that the first three first days of each month are covered. They are looking for people to take the fourth first day and the fifth when there is one.

Convener Linda Smith called for more commitment and energy to the task of building a vibrant first day program.

8. Long-range planning task force reported that it will be in touch with Booz Allen people in the weeks ahead.

9. The question of liability insurance was revisited. Meeting approved continuing this insurance for the coming year. This expenditure will be added to the budget. When the budget comes up for review next year Trustees will have ownership of this.

A task force was formed to investigate the relative advantages and disadvantages of carrying such insurance. It consists of Tom Bertrand, Nancy Craft, Bob Clapp and Lewis White. The task force is asked to report at the next business meeting.

10. A request by Trustees to amend the budget to include \$50/year for a safe deposit box at the Hilltop branch of Wells Fargo bank was approved.

Meeting closed at 10:14 a.m., after a period of silent worship, twenty-one persons present.

Submitted by
Patrick Goold
Recording Clerk