

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
25th of Tenth Month 2009, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting at the Morningside Meeting's worship space, Riverside Church, New York, New York

Present: Nancy Black (B), Clerk; Andy von Salis (B), Assistant Clerk.

Attendance: Brooklyn 13, Fifteenth St. 7, Flushing 3, Manhattan 1, Morningside 13, Staten Island 0, Brooklyn Friends School 2, Friends Seminary 3, QM staff 1; total 43.

2009.10.01 Friends begin a short period of worship promptly at 1:00 p.m. Appreciation for the continual, active guidance of the Spirit is voiced from the silence. The Clerk reads the following excerpt:

[text insert]

Friends reflect briefly in silence.

2009.10.02 The Clerk introduces the work of the day as the Agenda is distributed. Friends accept the agenda.

2009.10.03 Carol Summar, clerk of Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting, reads its report, which includes a Memorial Minute for its member Linda R. Preston, who died on August 2, 2009, and which also notes the death of its member Jane S. Drouman on the same day. The report is accepted.

Naomi Paz Greenberg, administrative clerk of Flushing Monthly Meeting, reads its report. Sally Campbell, acting clerk of Morningside Monthly Meeting, reads its report of a six-month time period, since there was no report in July. A copy of the report of Staten Island Executive Meeting is read by our Clerk. The report of Manhattan Monthly Meeting is read by our Assistant Clerk. Our Clerk reads the report of Brooklyn Monthly Meeting. Each of these reports is accepted.

2009.10.04 Dave Britton of the Audit and Budget Committee reports orally, presenting copies of the 2008 Independent Auditors' Report with financial statements and additional information. The most significant point in the auditors' report is that the balance of our assets dropped by \$4,500,000 compared to the previous year, due primarily to the current economic recession. Our liabilities and receivables positions are much improved compared to recent years, however, reflecting an amelioration of more than \$300,000. Our operating income shows a slight increase due to the rise in sums collected under our lease at 112 Schermerhorn Street. That improvement will be much larger with the renewal lease in 2010. This will be the last year in which capital expenditures for the benefit of our properties are reported as single-year expenses, as the Committee, with the auditors and our Trustees, has completed the planning needed to report amortization of these investments for the long term in a more realistic manner. The auditors have reported fair value of the assets, noting that where a market does not realistically exist at a particular point in time, "market value" may not necessarily be identical to fair value.

The Audit Committee has been reaching greater clarity on the best valuation and use of our restricted funds, by working with the Finance Subcommittee of our Trustees as to the nature and significance of the various restrictions. This clarity will improve the suitability of the accounting structures by which our restricted funds are evaluated and the uses of the money are planned.

Questions from Friends are answered. Slight but still significant recovery of the loss in

our assets' value has already been realized as the nation's financial status improves, and that recovery now continues. Approval of Friends Fiduciary Corporation, which manages our investments, is voiced.

Friends accept the Committee's oral report and the auditors' report is received.

2009.10.05 Jim Morgan, clerk of the Audit and Budget Committee, distributes to Friends a spreadsheet presenting a preliminary statement of the operations results of the Quarterly Meeting for the first nine months of 2009. The preliminary statement is received.

2009.10.06 The announced meeting of the Corporation of the New York Quarterly Meeting is called to order by Michael Schlegel, clerk of our Trustees and thus President of the Corporation, shortly after 2:00 p.m. A quorum is declared present.

Michael Schlegel reads the interim report of the Trustees as to the renewal of the lease of 112 Schermerhorn Street to the New York City Department of Education. The report is accepted.

The nomination for appointment of Benjamin Warnke to service as a Trustee for a partial term ending April, 2012, is placed before Friends. The appointment is approved, and Benjamin Warnke is declared elected.

The meeting of the Corporation is declared adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

2009.10.07 Resuming Quarterly Meeting business, we hear Elizabeth Gilmore's request to be released from service as a Trustee as soon as a replacement can be nominated. Friends approve.

We also hear Joan Malin's request for release from service on our Audit and Budget Committee. Friends approve.

2009.10.08 The Nominating Committee suggests the following nominees for committee service, in addition to the above-mentioned nomination of Benjamin Warnke to serve as a Trustee:

Mary Eberhardt of Staten Island Meeting to the Cemetery Committee for a partial term ending 2010,

Michael Phillips of Fifteenth Street Meeting to the Education Fund Committee for a partial term ending 2011,

Aldona Januskiewicz of Fifteenth Street Meeting to the New York Yearly Meeting's nominating committee for a partial term ending 2012

Beth Bugdaycay of Morningside Meeting to the Audit and Budget Committee for a partial term ending 2011,

Sally Campbell of Morningside Meeting to our Ministry and Counsel Committee for a partial term to April 2011.

These nominees are approved. The Clerk is directed to inform New York Yearly Meeting of the appointment of our member Aldona Januskiewicz to its nominating committee.

2009.10.09 Ingrid Schwarzkopf, clerk of Brooklyn Meeting, reads Brooklyn's minute of October 4, 2009, with an explanation of how it arose. The Minute expresses a concern that everyone have access to healthcare. Friends unite with the Minute, as follows:

"We are deeply concerned that the medical treatment currently provided in the United States is beyond the reach of many people.

Our belief is that every person should be treated compassionately.

Each of us has unique value, and all deserve to live to the best of our potential. Health care is a basic necessity of life that our society has an obligation to provide.

Every person should have access to affordable medical treatment.

We seek a more just, sustainable and simplified health care solution".

The Clerk is directed to forward this minute to New York Yearly Meeting.

2009.10.10 Carol Summar, clerk of Fifteenth Street Meeting, reads its Minute of October 4, 2009, in connection with the pending proposal to transfer ownership of Friends Seminary to a new separate corporation. We are requested to establish and authorize a group to draft a proposal "for the satisfactory distribution and use of all properties now owned by the Quarterly Meeting and used by the School." The Minute also proposes a procedure and timeline for the group's work.

Friends express heartfelt general support for proceeding toward clarity on our relationship to Friends Seminary. But some disagree with certain language in Fifteenth Street Meeting's minute, or disapprove of certain of the proposed specifics of the group's charge. Our Clerk reads to Friends from our Minute 2009.07.23, and asks us to consider building on its stated points on which we have come to agreement.

After a break, we re-convene in silence. The Clerk suggests that, rather than decide on the floor how to constitute and charge the requested "Property Task Force," we ask each relevant committee to appoint a representative to a small group that will bring us a proposed constitution and charge for the working group. We are advised that a detailed re-survey of space use in the buildings at Fifteenth Street, and a review of the relevant archived paperwork, are both now in progress, with results hoped for this winter.

We direct the clerks (or the clerks' designated alternates) of the Audit and Budget Committee, the Trustees, the Friends Seminary Committee, the Committee on Ministry and Counsel, and Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting to convene and formulate for us as soon as possible - but certainly before our scheduled January 2010 meeting - a proposed charge for the suggested working group and process of constituting it. Jim Morgan will convene this small group.

2009.10.11 Sally Campbell, clerk of the Downtown Manhattan Allowed Meeting and of our Committee for Downtown Meeting, presents a report of that Meeting's 2009 season. The report is accepted.

2009.10.12 Karen Robinson-Cloete and Alice Pope, co-clerks of the Brooklyn Friends School Committee, present and distribute copies of its annual report, including statements of the School's finances and demographics. They point out four highlights:

Friends' care relationship with Brooklyn Friends School has been thriving through multiple new and continuing activities.

The School decided to increase its tuition less than originally budgeted, even while adding supplemental funds to its pool of financial aid money.

The School added another public school, as well as courses and program elements, to its "Horizons at BFS" summer enrichment program.

Separate incorporation of the School has been achieved, and the new corporation received its charter from New York State to operate the School; and the NYS Attorney General's

Charities Bureau will soon receive paperwork for its approval of the property transfer from New York Quarterly Meeting to the Brooklyn Friends School corporation.

Friends accept the report.

2009.10.13 Mary Alexander, clerk of the Friends Seminary Committee, reads its annual report and distributes copies of the report with an attached page of financial statements. She comments on a few additional new activities and plans, such as the computerization of the School's admissions process. A nine-minute video portraying life in the School is shown. It was produced by a Seminary parent as a gift to the School, and is used in Admissions.

Friends accept the report.

2009.10.14 Jon Miller, co-clerk of the Education Fund Committee, reads the Committee's annual report. Questions are answered. The report is accepted.

2009.10.15 Our Clerk, Nancy Black, steps down to present the interim report of our *ad hoc* Fundraising Committee. The Assistant Clerk presides in this interim. Nancy Black, as the Committee's clerk, reads the report and adds explanatory comments. The report describes three areas of activity, each conducted by a separate subcommittee: fundraising and matching fund activities and results, dialogues about Friends' relationship to money, and ideas about establishing a permanent witness fund committee.

A proposal for a Witness Fund Committee of the Quarterly Meeting is set forth for our consideration in sufficient detail for inclusion in our Handbook. It envisions one Friends-sponsored project to be funded per year, within a budget of \$35,000 to be raised within one year and spent within three years.

Friends approve the creation of the permanent Witness Fund Committee. The Nominating Committee is asked to nominate six members for service on the Witness Fund Committee at our January 2010 meeting. The Fundraising Committee's description of the Committee is to be sent to our Handbook Coordinator for inclusion in the Handbook. Friends recognize that our vision of the work the Quarterly Meeting is called to do evolves with time and experience. We wish to make clear that the elements of that description are, therefore, subject to modification by any further recommendations that may come to us for our consideration.

2009.10.16 Friends sink into peaceful silence. The Clerk reads the following excerpt from Isaac Penington, which is briefly considered:

[text insert]

The meeting rises at 5:10 p.m.

Andrew Mead von Salis,
Recording clerk *1/21/2010*

Attachments:
[listed next page]

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Periodic reports from the following:
 - Fifteenth Street Meeting, including a Memorial Minute
 - Flushing Meeting
 - Manhattan Meeting
 - Morningside Meeting
 - Staten Island Meeting
 - Brooklyn Meeting
- December 31, 2008 independent auditors' report dated September 15, 2009
- Preliminary statement of QM's 2009 operations through September 30, 2009
- Interim report of Trustees, regarding 112 Schermerhorn Street lease
- Brooklyn Meeting's request for consideration of its Minute on healthcare for all
- Fifteenth Street Meeting's Minute requesting a QM work group on Seminary properties
- Annual report of the Downtown Meeting Committee
- Annual report of the Brooklyn Friends School Committee, including appendices
- Annual report of the Friends Seminary Committee, with financial statement
- Annual report of the Education Fund Committee
- Interim report of the *ad hoc* Fundraising Committee, including proposal for a permanent Witness Fund Committee
- attendance sheets