

New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
23rd of Tenth Month 2011, 1:00pm
Morningside Meeting, New York

Attendance: Nancy Black (B), clerk; Nancy Britton (Mo), assistant clerk; Brooklyn Monthly Meeting (B) 7, Fifteenth St. Meeting (15th St.) 9; Flushing Monthly Meeting (F) 0; Manhattan Monthly Meeting (Ma) 0; Morningside Monthly Meeting (Mo) 17; Staten Island Executive Meeting (SI) 1; New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM) 1; Brooklyn Friends School (BFS) 1; Friends Seminary (FS) 4; Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting 1; Bulls Head 1. Total 42.

2011.10.01 We settle in to silent worship at 1:05 pm. Our clerk reads from “Knowing Experimentally”, David Britton, Friends Journal (October 2009), p. 5, “Each [Quaker testimony] stands on its own, affirmed and grounded in what Fox taught us we can know 'experimentally.' Another distinct and characteristic Quaker practice founded on the same rock is the practice of coming to unity on decisions in worship, which enables us to rise above personal issues and power struggles to find solutions led by that great and deep 'experimental' force within us. Waiting worshipfully in silent expectation is of course our signature mode of religious praxis, and the one that often makes it possible to come to unity.”

2011.10.02 Agenda sheets are distributed and the attendance sign-in sheet is circulated. Our clerk reviews the agenda.

With one re-ordering, Friends approve.

2011.10.03 The following announcements are made by our clerk:

1. Brought by Charles Brainard, Christopher Sammond, clerk moves to ask monthly meetings for their thoughts on “Occupy Wall Street” in an effort to discern where we our meetings stand.
2. The NYQM letter on the closing of Arthur Kill did not bring any response from Governor Cuomo. The clerk reads the letter from Brian Fisher, Commissioner, Department of Corrections.
3. Our clerk acknowledges receipt of the cover letter and two page statement of conscience by David Bassett, that is being forwarded to New York Yearly Meeting.
4. On November 19, 10am-4pm, is the “Fall Visiting and Work Day” at the Quaker cemetery at Prospect Park. No rain date.
5. Our clerk introduces Heather Cook, clerk of New York Yearly Meeting, who is in attendance today.
6. Gabrielle Savory Bailey, the Young Adult Field Secretary for the NYYM, is meeting today with

the several Young Friends to plan future events and propose structures.

7. George Fisher regrets that he can't attend today and asks that the 15th St. Care Committee for Friends Seminary report in January 2012 and welcomes comments and thoughts at that time.

2011.10.04 Brooklyn Monthly Meeting's report is read by recording clerk, Nancy Britton. Friends accept the report as attached.

2011.10.05 The report from Fifteenth Street is read by Nancy Britton, recording clerk. A Brooklyn Friend speaks to the profound connections made through the activities commemorating September 11, 2001, particularly the banner that everyone was invited to contribute to.

The report is accepted by Friends and attached.

2011.10.06 Flushing Monthly Meeting's report is read by Ninon Rogers. The report is accepted by Friends and is attached.

2011.10.07 The Meeting did not receive a report from Manhattan Monthly Meeting. We look forward to a report at the next Quarterly meeting in the first month, 2012.

2011.10.08 Sally Campbell, clerk of Morningside Monthly Meeting, reads their report. Morningside asks the Quarter to consider endorsing the S.A.F.E. Act to be forwarded to NYYM. With approval from the Meeting this item has been added to today's agenda.

Friends accept the report. The report is attached.

2011.10.09 The Staten Island Executive Meeting report is read by Mary Eberhard Owen.

The report is accepted by Friends.

2011.10.10 Our clerk gathers us with this reminder on the function of Quarterly Meeting: "Its most helpful function should be to aid and encourage the Monthly Meetings composing it to greater interest and service, and to give its members an increasing vision of the truth." NYYM Faith and Practice, 1956.

2011.10.11 Ministry and Counsel updates us on Von New's work with the NYQM website and its associated provisions for the meetings. Von explains to us the website's fee structures and services associated with each fee. She emphasizes the flexibility of the proposals and invites meetings to be in touch with her so she can provide information designed specifically for each meeting's needs. Von gives us her email address to have a representative from each meeting contact her.

Friends hear the report.

2011.10.12 Our clerk reviews the reasons for the creation of the Property Task Group. Maureen Healy reads their report.

Friends speak in support of the committee's willingness and efforts to engage in the breath of the issues and tasks that came before it. Friends expressed concerns on the information brought to light and subsequent lack of avenues to communicate the information gathered to the larger body.

Friends agreed they value and want to hear the Property Task Group's information and want to have a special meeting to hear the information and to discern the way forward.

Friends discern that they would like to hear all voices of those involved in this process.

Friends ask that prior to this special meeting, the Committee present to the clerk and the Quarter written reports. We want to hear about the work done, the issues identified that need to be decided, and points of agreement and disagreement.

Friends request that the Committee remain together until these reports are assembled and the special meeting and next Quarterly meeting are held.

Ministry and Counsel offers to serve as Elders and take on the role of facilitators for the special meeting.

Clerks request that the reports be posted on the website by the 15th of the Twelfth month. A special meeting will be held in early January.

Following this considerable discussion, the report is accepted as attached.

2011.10.13 The 15th St. Property Committee requests that Ruth Josimovich be appointed to the Property task Group.

Friends approve the appointment.

2011.10.14 Flushing Monthly Meeting brings back their revised letter on the deteriorating

conditions in Colombia. The revised letter is read by recording clerk, Nancy Britton.

Since the last Quarterly Meeting, the Free Trade Agreement has been ratified. Friends approve endorsing the letter and sending it forward to NYYM. Friends allow Flushing Monthly Meeting to make revisions in paragraph five as they see fit.

Friends approve the letter as attached.

2011.10.15 The report from Friends Seminary School Committee is read selectively with additions by Helgi Skibeli and Matthew Annenberg. Matthew Annenberg highlights items from the unaudited financial statements.

Friends ask for clarification of bookkeeping procedures, 2012-13 admissions, and current tuition.

Friends accept the report and that presented orally. The report and the unaudited Comparative Financial Statement are attached.

2011.10.16 Karen Robinson-Cloete, co-chair of the Brooklyn Friends School Committee, summarizes the report.

Following questions on programs and current tuition, Friends accept the report. See attached.

2011.10.17 The Trustees interim report is read by Mary Rusnak. An amendment to the “Property Subcommittee” and “Advisors” is to replace Carol Jackson with Steve Monroe Smith.

Friends accept the amended report. See attached.

2011.10.18 The meeting is asked to release Jesse Peterson, currently serving as a Trustee. The Nominating Committee is requested to replace Jesse Peterson.

Friends approve the release.

2011.10.19 Nominating Committee member, Danielle Dybiec, reads the current nominations for two committees for Friends to approve.

Mary Doty, Cemetery Committee, term ending 2014
John Loza, Gay Pride Parade Coordinators, term ending 2012

The two nominations are approved by Friends. The report is accepted and it is attached.

2011.10.20 The Educational Fund report is read by David Britton.

The report is accepted by Friends and is attached.

2011.10.21 Downtown Allowed Meeting asks to present their written report at the next meeting.

Friends accept the postponement.

2011.10.22 Our clerk relays a request by the Sessions Committee of the New York Yearly Meeting, to host the November 14-16th Fall Sessions in 2014. Friends postpone the decision until the next meeting when a space can be confirmed.

Friends hear the request and accept the decision's postponement.

2011.10.23 Audit and Budget brings forward a minute on Advancement and Outreach, approved at their recent meeting on 19th day of the Tenth month. The minute is read by our clerk.

A committee member describes the concerns as arising at NYYM's "Budget Saturday" in this Tenth month, on the severity of the financial condition of NYYM and Powell House. Discussion followed on NYQM's past laboring and discernments on charitable contributions.

Friends are interested in continuing this discussion and encourage Audit and Budget to talk with Trustees, other concerned committees and possibly other monthly meetings about this concern.

Friends are not yet clear on approving a charitable line item in the budget at this time.

Friends accept the report as attached.

2011.10.24 Pam Wood of Morningside Meeting, brings back the revised minute and gives further background on the significance of the S.A.F.E. Act.

Friends approve endorsing the minute and ask our clerk to forward the minute to NYYM's Witness Co-ordinating Committee and to the S.A.F.E. Parole group. See attached.

2011.10.25 We let our silence encompass us and our clerk reads from NYYM Faith and Practice, p.31, “Thoughtful listening is as important as speaking, and a necessary part of resolving our conflicts. If we listen attentively to the expression of the Spirit, in ourselves and in others, words and action can become a means of knowing God, a form of prayer. To speak, write, or act from the truth of our lives brings spiritual force to bear on us in ways that may develop into concerns or leadings if we listen further.”

Our meeting closes at 5:08 pm when our clerk reminds us we will convene next on 22, First Month, in Brooklyn.

Attachments:

- clerk's opening reading
- attendance
- agenda
- New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees Report
- Ministry and Counsel Report
- Flushing Monthly Meeting's letter to NY's US Representative and Senator
- Nominating Committee Report
- Nominating Committee's current roster
- Brooklyn Monthly Meeting report
- Fifteenth St. Monthly Meeting report
- Flushing Monthly Meeting report
- Morningside Monthly Meeting report
- Staten Island Executive Meeting report
- Staten Island Executive Meeting Arthur Kill Prison closing letter to Gov. Cuomo
- clerk's closing reading