

**New York Quarterly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends  
fifteenth day, Fourth Month, 2012, 1:00pm  
Fifteenth Street Monthly Meeting  
New York, New York**

**Attendance:** Nancy Black (B), clerk; Nancy Britton (Mo), assistant clerk; Brooklyn Monthly Meeting (B) 14; Fifteenth St. Meeting (15<sup>th</sup> St.) 19; Flushing Monthly Meeting (F) 1; Manhattan Monthly Meeting (Ma) 0; Morningside Monthly Meeting (Mo) 10; Staten Island Executive Meeting (SI) 0; New York Quarterly Meeting (NYQM) 1; Friends Seminary (FS) 4. Miami Meeting 1; other 1. Total 51.

**2012.04.01** Friends sign the attendance sheet and pickup copies of the 2011 Financial Statements and today's agenda. Our clerk calls us to silent worship at 1:06pm. From the silence our clerk reads from Barry Morley's *Beyond Consensus*:

"A Quaker meeting is particularly vulnerable to abuse. It requires constant nurture and discipline. Its centeredness can be jeopardized by individuals determined to be heard, whose truths are unassailable, who belittle the offerings of others, who need to lecture, who need to correct. If the process by which we discover the sense of the meeting is to work, we must be willing to lay aside personal needs and grievances; we must be willing to reach beyond what you or I want. When I am able to set my ideas aside, and you are able to set your ideas aside, doors are opened which allow solutions to enter on a shaft of light."

**2012.04.02** The attendance sheet and agendas are circulated. Our clerk reads the agenda and clarifies our business today.

Friends accept the agenda as presented.

**2012.01.03** The clerk makes the following announcements:

The Spring Visiting and Workday at the Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park, Brooklyn is on Saturday, April 21, 2012, 10am-4pm. Public tours are offered at noon and 2pm. Directions to the cemetery can be found on the NYQM website.

**2012.01.04** Our clerk takes up the three minutes submitted by 15th St, Brooklyn MM and Morningside MM and the Friends Seminary proposal speaking to the way forward from minute 2012.01.02.

Our clerk reads the 15th St. minute on the way forward and then asks Matthew Annenberg to read the Friends Seminary School Committee Property Committee proposal as presented to 15th St. Monthly Meeting on February 23, 2012.

The third document from Brooklyn Monthly Meeting Property Committee is read by our clerk. Sally Campbell reads the Morningside Minute.

Friends receive the three minutes and FS proposal as attached.

**2012.04.05** Our clerk directs our attention to the first two documents and recommends to the body that we approve 15th St.'s request not to consider the FS proposal today.

A Friend asks that we consider all four of the minutes before we come to unity on the 15th St. request. The Morningside MM minute is taken up and our clerk focuses us on their specific recommendations.

Friends ask for clarification of the composition of the current Property Task Group going forward. Friends hear that two Quaker members from the FS School Committee would be on this committee.

A Friend proposes that the NYQM Property Concerns Committee (*added: this is the name suggested in the Morningside MM minute*) would benefit from a proposal from the 15th St. Meeting that the 15th St. Property Committee brings to them.

Another Friend notes that the process at 15th St. would benefit knowing that their proposal would be taken up by NYQM's Property Task Group.

Friends hearing Morningside MM's minute ask the body to take action today.

Our clerk call for a break in this discussion to have our Meeting of the Corporation.

**2012.04.06** Reminding us of our responsibilities to hold an annual meeting of the corporation, our clerk steps aside and Mary Rusnak, clerk of the Trustees of the New York Quarterly Meeting Corporation, steps forward.

At the annual Meeting of the Corporation of the New York Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held in the Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse, New York, New York at 2:10pm, April 15, 2012.

Having declared a quorum present, the president of the corporation, as clerk, calls the meeting to order.

The Trustees present the following nominations:

- Mary Rusnak, term ending in 2015
- Anne Kjellberg, term ending in 2015
- Ben Warnke, term ending in 2015

The Trustees annual report is read by Mary Rusnak, president.

Discussion follows concerning the proposal for the cafeteria plans by Friends Seminary and the considered involvement of 15th St. Meeting and 15th St. Meeting Property Committee.

The Cemetery Committee would like to be included in the Trustee's annual report next year as part of

the property report.

Another Friend notes the subordinate position of the Corporation to the NYQMeeting.

A Friend affirms for us that we move forward in love and treat each other tenderly.

Concerns about the good order of the Trustee's business and decision implementation is brought to the attention of the body.

Friends further speak to the concerns of governance and process, and the role of the corporation as a tool within the NYQM.

A question is raised of whether the responsibilities of Trustees are accurately described in the first paragraph of their report. The incoming clerk and assistant clerk of Trustees have agreed to consider this matter with those concerned.

Friends receive the report and approve the nominations. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation is adjourned at 2:47pm.

Mary Rusnak steps aside and our clerk resumes the meeting. Our clerk releases us for a short break.

**2012.01.07** From the silence following our break our clerk reads us "The Wayfarer" by Stephen Crane:

The wayfarer,  
Perceiving the path to truth,  
Was struck with astonishment.  
It was thickly grown with weeds.  
"Ha," he said,  
"I see that none has passed here  
In a long time."  
Later he saw that each weed  
Was a singular knife.  
"Well," he mumbled at last,  
"Doubtless there are other roads."

Discussion follows. Setting reasonable time frames, quarterly reporting of the new group, being mindful of our energies and resources, the committee's charge, the need to move forward, and the membership of the property committee are raised up.

We find ourselves not in unity today on the Morningside MM minute and suggest we layover this concern until our July meeting.

Friends approve and this concern is laid over.

**2012.01.08** Lynn von Salis presents the audit for 2011 of NYQM.

Friends accept the audit report, see attached.

**2012.01.9** The Annual Report from Friends in the City, Inc, is read by Steve Monroe Smith.

Discussion follows and questions are addressed. Friends ask that the application for Friends in the City housing be posted on the website.

Friends approve. See attached report.

**2012.01.10** Due to time constraints, Ed Elder summarizes the Housing Committee report. The report is posted on-line.

Friends accept the report and it is attached.

**2012.01.11** Seta Toroyan requests release from the Cemetery Committee.

Friends approve the release.

**2012.01.12** Ted Ehrhardt presents the nominations with all terms ending in 2015 unless noted otherwise:

Ann Kjellberg, Trustees, first term

Mary Rusnak, Trustees, second term

Lynn Von Salis, Audit and Budget, second term

Karen Robinson Cloete, Brooklyn Friends School Committee, third term

Wade Black, Brooklyn Friends School Committee, second term

Catherine Ramey, Brooklyn Friends School Committee, first term

Paul van Linden-Tol, Cemetery Committee, partial term

Barbara Kuesell, Committee for Downtown Allowed Meeting, partial term

Michael Phillips, Educational Fund, first term

Nicole Byrne-Lau, Educational Fund, second term

Margery Cornwall, Educational Fund, second term

Tony Shitemi, Educational Fund, first term

Carol Jackson, Friends in the City, second term

Margery Cornwall, Friends Seminary School Committee, second term

Helge Skibeli, Friends Seminary School Committee, second term

Margery Cornwall, Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee, fifth term

Corona Machemer, Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee, third term

Boyce Bengé, Handbook Coordinators, first term ending in 2014

John Loga, Housing Committee (Rosehill), second term

Nancy Adelman, Housing Committee (Rosehill), first term  
Boyce Bengel, Ministry and Counsel Committee, first term ending in 2014  
Frederica Clare, Ministry and Counsel Committee, first term ending in 2014  
Tom Rothschild, Ministry and Counsel Committee, second term ending in 2014  
Marna Herrity, Nominating Committee, first term  
Naomi Paz Greenberg, Nominating Committee, third term  
Mark LaRiviere, Relief Committee, second term  
Wendy Burns, Relief Committee, second term  
Nancy Adelman, Relief Committee, second term  
Tom Rothschild, NYYM Ministry Coordinating Committee, first term  
Aldona Januszkiewicz, NYYM Nominating Committee, first term  
Joyce Ketterer, NYYM working Priorities Group, first term

Friends approve the nominations. The roster is posted on-line and attached.

**2012.01.13** Our clerk reads the proposed dates for the 2012-2013 NYQM's meeting dates.

Friends approve meeting in the cemetery in July.

Our nominated clerk will be away in July. The Meeting approves Ed Elder as clerk in July.  
The assistant clerk will also be away in July and the Meeting approves finding a suitable substitute.

Saturday, July 14, 2012: at the Cemetery in Prospect Park; in case of rain, at  
Brooklyn Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, October 28, 2012: at Flushing Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, January 20, 2013: at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, April 21, 2013: at 15th Street Meeting

Friends approve the dates.

**2012.01.14** John Edminster reads the Advance Report of FUM representatives.

A question follows on FUM's hiring policy and the possible split is discussed.

Friends accept the report.

**2012.01.15** We do not have reports today from our monthly meetings. We look forward to hearing all the meetings reports at the seventh month meeting.

**2012.01.16** We settle into worship and from the silence our clerk reads from *Beyond Consensus* by Barry Morley: "Sense of the meeting is a gift. It came to the Quakers through their commitment to

continuing revelation. They discovered that the Light which had come to teach the people could lead them to revealed corporate decisions.”

Our meeting closes at 5:15 pm. We will convene next on Saturday, 14th of Seventh month, 2012 at the Quaker cemetery at Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Nancy Britton, recording clerk

**Attachments:**

- clerk's readings (opening, returning from break, closing)
- attendance
- agenda
- Property Task Group, the way forward: three minutes from Fifteenth Street
- Property Task Group, the way forward: Morningside Monthly Meeting minute
- Property Task Group, the way forward: Brooklyn Monthly Meeting property committee's
- Meeting of the Corporation annual report
- Audit and Budget Committee – Financial Statements and supplementary information 2011
- Friends in the City
- Housing Committee
- Joint Nominating Committee nominations
- Proposed Dates and Venues for NYQM in 2012-2013
- FUM