

WQM MfB minutes (Draft)

October 15, 2016, Kendal MM hosts

Western Quarterly Meeting with attention to Business began with silence at 1:30 pm with 17 members in attendance, representing Center, Kendal, Kennett, London Grove, Newark and New Garden Monthly Meetings.

19.97 Monthly Meeting reflections & updates

Friends were invited to share reflections from their Monthly Meetings.

One Friend spoke of her concern for the operation of “killer drones” out of near-by Horsham Drone Base. A good number of Mennonites have been maintaining a protest at the site since it began operating in 2016. This Friend has participated in the vigi, sometimes with other Friends, but often not. She is concerned that not many Friends are present or involved in anti-war efforts these days. Here is an opportunity to live into our Peace Testimony. She offered more information to anyone interested.

19.98 Minutes from September 18 WQM Support Committee meeting were read and approved.

19.99 Treasurer’s Report – Stan Glowiak

First quarter FY (July-Sept 2016) was very slow. We only received two covenant checks by the end of September, then three more in the first days of October. Expenses are in line with the budget, with the exception of newsletter costs, which may need to be revised. Our balance sheet actually balances now, which is in part thanks to a thorough review with our new bookkeeper, and in part because the Pennsgrove property committee made some very large withdrawals (\$48,000) from the fund principle last year, which showed in our general balance sheet and threw the regular accounting off. WQM closed out last FY with \$8000 in surplus of budget, mostly owed to reduced office and staff expenditures.

In response to a question Friends were assured that someone from the quarter – the Clerk of WQM’s Finance Committee, currently Richard Logan – does contact treasurers from each of the MMs to discuss annual covenant amounts and answer any questions. This is particularly important when a new treasurer begins.

19.20 Friends Home of Kennett Square - Annual Report for July 2015-2016 was read and accepted with thanks.

19.21 Friends Support Committee – resolution

Following recommendations from July QM, the Friends Support Committee was laid down. It was agreed that at this time, any grant applications received (for William Jackson Education or John Woolman Traveling Ministers funds) will be reviewed by a few (2-3) Friends from the Support Committee, who will then recommend awards for approval. Care will be taken to ensure confidentiality of any sensitive information. Three current applications to the William Jackson Education Fund were reviewed by WQM Co-clerks, Friends Shelley and Ariana. Two applicants are members of Centre Meeting, and are students at Wilmington Friends School. One applicant is an attender at Kennett Friends Meeting, and is a student at London Grove Friends Kindergarten. The recommendation is to grant \$300 to each applicant. This recommendation was approved.

19.22 Colora Property update

Cecil County has issued the permit to have the house on the property razed. Stephen Balderston has contacted two approved contractors for bids to take it down. We are currently waiting for the health department’s inspection and approval that there is no asbestos present in the house, then they can proceed.

The plot plans for the property have been located, and we are now trying to determine if the house is on its own one-acre plot (separate from the Meeting House).

19.23 Property Surveys

Property Surveys were initially sent to Monthly Meetings in the spring of 2015. The issue with the Colora property highlights our need to collect pertinent information about the properties within and related to Western Quarterly Meeting. The survey will be sent again to MMs who have not yet responded, asking about details such as property responsibilities, location of deeds, relevant funds, etcetera.

19.24 Bylaws Review Committee (ad hoc)

Reflections on the current Bylaws were shared in a report written by Dick Logan (attached). Some updates are needed to reflect our recent restructuring and current practices. The ad hoc committee will continue its review work and bring its recommendations to the Quarterly Meeting in January. Copies of the current Bylaws will be made available.

19.25 April Quarterly Meeting – proposal for consideration

The WQM Coordinator has been planning youth activities jointly with Concord Quarter for a few years now. Another such joint youth program is planned for April 23, 2016, at Westtown School. Concord will be holding QM that day, as will Western Quarter. We propose Concord and Western Quarters also plan and hold our adult program & Worship jointly on that day. Meeting for Business would be conducted separately. Approval was given at Concord Quarter, and Westtown MM has embraced the idea, and agreed to host. Western Quarter Friends approved.

WQM Coordinator also reflected on New Garden MM's request to be released from hosting QM in the future, and asked Friends to consider what it would mean for a MM to no longer host QM in rotation, and how that might affect their sense of being part of the Quarter. She also asked how we might continue to keep these Friends embraced in our WQM community.

19.26 New Business & Reminders

One Friend voiced his appreciation for Quarterly Meeting Programming, and great thanks to Kendal for bringing Robin Mohr and her message. He was also thankful we had George Schaeffer with us in July for our program on listening spirituality, and for a long string of good programs "all in a row" back to last January. He reflected that sometimes the Quarterly Meeting can do things that Monthly Meetings can't do.

Friends asked for an update on WQM Recording Clerk, Tony Thames Taylor, after her recent surgery. She is healing well, and is starting to become active again. Friends were thanked for their earlier offers of assistance.

WQM's winter newsletter will be sent before the holidays this year, which is early, so please submit articles and events by Dec 1.

WQM will co-sponsor our second "parent's morning off" youth event on Dec. 3, with Concord Q, to be held at The Cabin at Westtown School. Contact Christian for details or to register.

January QM will be hosted by London Grove MM on Sunday, January 15, 2017.

The next WQM Support Committee meeting will be in December (12/4 or 12/11) – a notice will be sent with the date and time.

Meeting ended at 2:08 with silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Kastriner, WQM Coordinator