



2023-04-16 WQM - Minutes

1:00 pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92668234836>

Present: Bob Frye (LG), Margaret Walton, Stan Glowiak (C), me, Pownall Jones (NG), Mark Myers (LG), Mary Sproat (NG), Shelley Hastings (N), Dave Nuttall (WQ), Ariana Langford (N), Terry Engeman (KD), Kim Brosnan-Myers (LG)

REGRETS - Dick Logan (H)

We opened with a period of worship during which we shared responses to the 2nd Query, Deepening our Faith through Meeting for Business.

London Grove Monthly Meeting

Responses highlighted a sense that Meeting for Business is a solemn responsibility placed on every member and an important point of connection among us. At times there is contention, and clerks handle these issues in various ways to come to a sense of the Meeting. Balancing the entire community as well as the individual members is a difficult task. Prayerful consideration elevates Quaker Meeting for Business from other types of meetings. Membership is the core of faith and several spoke of a desire for more members to attend Business Meeting.

Mill Creek Monthly Meeting

We don't rush into decisions during Meeting for Business, and we encourage everyone to share. We are respectful of different opinions. We hold a called meeting or hold over an issue when extra time is needed so we are unhurried to reach the sense of the meeting.

In regards to our inaction: We struggle with this. We believe we could do more, but we are a small group and the needs of the world are so great. And many feel burdened by the demands on our time. There is also information overload. One member said she feels called to give time to the aged, and the Friends' Home. We need to discern our leadings and to share them with the Meeting.

Submitted by Terry Cannon, Recording Clerk for Mill Creek MM of Friends
Newark Monthly Meeting

A Friend says that he finds it surprisingly easy to reach consensus with our group. However, he continues, he's deeply appreciative of the Quaker method of decision making.

Another Friend remarked that the query, "Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?" is one we should think of always. She added that in some cases taking no action is just as bad as taking the wrong action. "This part of the query strikes me too, as an individual and as a meeting," agreed another Friend.

In answer to part "a" which asks, "Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?" a Friend remarked "I look forward to our business meetings. They are full of laughter and joy, and when we bring bag lunches, it is not a distraction, but it helps us relax."

In answer to part "b:" "How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue...?" Our recent meeting to discuss the state of the meeting was an attempt to approach the difficult question of: "how do we move into the future?" We approached this question with much tenderness, and in a prayerful way.

A Friend is deeply concerned about the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. She noted that our meeting promptly took action with contributions to help the earthquake victims, shortly after doing the same for people affected by the war in Ukraine. Another Friend believes that we've been good at making these financial contributions.

A Friend visiting from Kenya shared that at her general meeting at home, "for things we don't see eye to eye on, we wait and see if we can reach a decision later during the meeting. If not, we will hold it over to the next meeting, and pray over it. We don't rush the decision."

On behalf of Newark Monthly Meeting, respectfully submitted, Mike McDowell

New Garden - Our Meeting for Business is held in much the same way as Meeting for Worship. Again, we are prepared for the spirit to lead us when it comes to making decisions, keeping an open mind & a willingness to change our own opinion after hearing all options. Some of our members have described the word "wisdom" as "common sense". We consistently remind each other that "inaction is an action".

Updates from MMs

West Grove - program on Mason Dixon line with 50 people

Open New West Grove for summer meeting - 11th of June, 2023. Time to be shared soon.

Newark/London Britain - We held sunrise worship at 8:30a, at London Britain Meetinghouse and invited Mill Creek Meeting as guests for worship. We then had breakfast and worship at Newark Center for Creative Learning, our other home. A new to us Friend, Pasquale is attending while doing her graduate studies at University of Delaware.

Mill Creek - appreciated the invitation from Newark and enjoyed joining for worship, fellowship, and the egg hunt. We have also written letter of response to Lancaster MM on Christian nationalism, and is drafting a letter to their local representation on the rise of Christian nationalism and the threat it presents to democracy. There were 26 this morning at Mill Creek for breakfast, a program, and worship. We all enjoyed hosting and connecting to wider fellowship with Friends.

Centre - is revising its handbook. This morning discussion included discernment on on pronouns and which ones would be most inclusive. We opted for using thee/thou/thy. Today's other handbook topic was marriage.

Kennett - this morning the meeting approved joining Kennett Square borough's program in support of "No Mow May." They will apply for approval from town for exemption from the grass less than 6 inches requirement. Longer grass in May should help promote healthy habitats for early pollinators.

London Grove - We invited families at West Chester Friends School to join at Easter. We held a non-competitive Easter egg hunt. We had 11 children, and 2 new families one of whom came to Mill Creek earlier today for quarterly meeting. We are working on a minute supporting Lancaster Monthly Meeting's statement with respect to Christian nationalism.

New Garden - Western Quarter received a state of the meeting report from New Garden. It is attached as a point of information for Friends. No action is needed.

Treasurer Report/Update on finances

Western Quarter treasurer, Ariana Langford gave the attached report. Highlights were that the 2023 fiscal year is 75% complete. Balances for the William Jackson Education Fund and John Woolman Traveling Ministers Fund were shared. Also noted was a \$1,000 grant from PhYM for technology and/or outreach which was supplemented with a \$200 grant from New Garden Monthly Meeting.

Assistance is needed in the budget process for fiscal year 2024. It would be great for someone to help with a first draft, convene meetings, and clerk the process.

Bob Frye volunteered to draft a budget to preview with the treasurer, before meeting with monthly meeting treasurers and support committee. Friends expressed their appreciation for Ariana's work and Bob's offer.

The clerk then called to order the annual meeting of Western Quarter Inc.

President, secretary, treasurer,

Business of quarter 4 public business meetings WT, KS, C/SC in march, today include all dates - property reports

[London Britain](#) - was received from Mike McDowell and read by Shelley Hastings. She shared that the London Britain Meetinghouse fund balance is \$136,715.91

[Pennsgrove](#) - was received from and given by Bob Frye.

No change cmte member; costs up - lawn care, insurance; have a few renewal projects for interior and exterior work contractors lined up; have less next year, due to work on these projects; Friends Fiduciary (as have many markets) has taken a loss, so do expect

Parkersville report - was received from and given by Mary Sproat. There was a burial this year. Loose shingles were repaired. The neighborhood put up no trespassing signs as young kids were going through the property. The signs were taken down. The committee was quite happy for the signs to go back up.

Formerly close meeting WQ inc;

Return to business of the WQ

Committee Updates

Nominating Committee is seeking friends to serve as treasurer and assistant clerk. We recently learned that our recording clerk, tonya thames taylor has served more than her two terms.

We have had some conversations with a potential assistant clerk and will soon be moving forward with that.

We are reaching out to two possible treasurers. We have also had some initial discussion in the committee about hiring a part time treasurer. We would be helped in our work to know friends' thoughts on this: do we hire a part time treasurer?

We already pay for bookkeeping; it does not seem right to also pay for a treasurer.

It is not appropriate for an officer of the QM to be paid.

Many present shared these views.

If friends have suggestions for any of these roles, please be in contact with members of Nominating: Shelley Hastings, Wayne Thompson, Karen Halstead, Margaret Walton or the coordinator.

Historic Properties sent a Burial Ground Survey. We have received completed surveys from Newark, Fallowfield, Mill Creek, London Grove, and New Garden. - **email copy to Mary Sproat;**

Several of us are attending sessions in Quaker Emily's Life Cycle of Meeting's series. Topics include restructuring, merging and laying down meetings, and selling meeting properties.

It's important to be clear when laying down or changing the status of a meeting to be clear about monies. There are still some confused by Centre's changed status from meeting to worship group to meeting.

The separation and mergers from the split may be informative about processes and details to tend to.

Aging Concerns last sessions discussed the importance of intergenerational events and perhaps connecting with Friends Home. Kim Brosnan-Myers offered to contact Christine McDonald about possible activities together.

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125 W. Sickle Street
610-444-1012

Education Grants were approved for three children of a London Grove Meeting family.

Concord Quarter Climate Action Working Group and Ecojustice Collaborative shared an epistle with Western Quarter in advance of its being shared at Annual Sessions.

Friends asked that the letter be shared with monthly meeting clerks. It was also noted that the closing quotation is from Stephen Grelle and not William Penn.

Coordinator's Report

Field Trip to Harriet Tubman Museum in Cambridge would cost at least \$100/person. There are two dates available soon in May. If we could not fill the bus, we would have to charge more/person.

Friends suggested going in the fall so we could have more time to get commitments and then cancel a bus and museum reservation if we did not get enough people.

The coordinator will continue to work on this.

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wood