

P.O. Box 693
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www.westernquarterquakers.org

Kennett Friends Meetinghouse
125 W. Sickle Street
610-444-1012



Minutes

Support Committee of Western Quarterly Meeting

18 September 2022 3:00pm via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 926 6823 4836

Present: Shelley Hastings (N), Dick Logan (H), David Elder (Kendal), Mary Sproat (WG), Nancy Pratt (NG), Kim Brosnan-Myers (LG), Terry Anderson (LG), and Margaret Walton(LG), Deb Wood (coordinator)

Regrets: tonya thames taylor, Ariana Langford, Bob Frye

We opened with worship.

Updates from Monthly Meetings

Newark - is meeting at London Britain; this coming first day they will all go to the 350th meeting celebration at New Castle; they also met with Mill Creek for shared worship; work on windows and privy roof is completed; we've learned about praying mantises recently with several sightings

West Grove- will soon transition to a new treasurer

Hockessin- there were fewer people than usual this morning for worship; children's programs are happening and the meeting is financially sound, but community is a challenge as it seems participation by members in regular and special events is down; Hockessin has a number of events planned on Oct. 8 as part of Delaware Peace Week, all are welcome!

Kendal- continues to work on improving their hybrid set up; their COVID numbers are up but cases aren't as severe; All are welcome to Oct 2 3:00-4:30 event in conjunction with World Quaker Day

New Garden- 3-4 attend worship regularly and 8-10 meeting for business; 28 came to the Peach Social!

London Grove- continues to have wonderful experiences with the developing relationship with Allen AME church in Oxford; children's programming is underway on a regular basis; it continues to be a challenge for some of the older members to attend in person for a variety of reasons

Treasurer's Report - Ariana sent the following for our information and consideration.

Auditors: Bob Frye is working on convening auditors. Nancy Pratt has agreed to help, but not lead. (Thank you Nancy!) Bob will reengage on this topic upon his return.

Friends suggested Wayne Thompson, Tammy Brosius, and Tom Brosius.

Treasurer's Responsibilities: I laid out a list of essential functions for the treasurer. Bob, as assistant, treasurer, was able to take a few discrete pieces on, primarily around FFC. I will still write the checks but he will follow up with FFC to collect the required information. I know that the budget could be reduced by not having bookkeepers, but due to the difficulty we have filling the treasurer role, and because a separation of duties should be maintained, I don't recommend adding bookkeeping to the treasurer's responsibilities.

Deb will reach out to treasurers at some area quarters to get a sense of their duties and how financial tasks are met.

Deficit Budgeting: I propose we hold a meeting early in 2023 and invite meeting clerks and treasurers to join to discuss (a) to what degree do we want to continue budgeting for a deficit - i.e. at what level do we draw down our reserves before we say enough is enough; and (b) what does the future look like once we stop this practice? Hopefully the outcome of these discussions would result in recommendations to QM for approval or further discernment. I suggest this timing as it is prior to our next budget season and frankly, we're already sliding into fall activities which will quickly be overtaken by the holiday season. Please note, these comments are my opinion alone, and others may feel differently.

Friends were in unity with these suggestions.

Nominating Committee - Western Quarter will be in need of a treasurer, and an assistant clerk/clerk. Margaret asked Friends to share this with their meetings and to get names to her of people to serve on a nominating committee.

Youth Coordinator - Deb shared that we received an application. Shelley Hastings agreed to be on a hiring committee. Friends suggested asking Karen Halstead, Dave Nuttall, Teal Rickerman, and Terry Cannon to serve on this Hiring Committee.

Deb will invite the others to join and share the resume and cover letter with the hiring committee.

Aging Concerns Committee – programs and year's commitment (Deb)

Western Quarter approved a year of programming and resource development. Some are interested in continuing work and some committee representatives have finished their service to the group.

Two future program ideas included worship sharing using the series of videos produced by tonya thames taylor. The second idea is to have a program on burial options that would include property committee related needs, questions, and resources for burial ground committees. Upcoming WQ newsletters could include some information about green burials.

Historic Properties Update - Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground, Parkersville, Burial Grounds (Deb)

The Historical Properties group met late in August and a few joined Parkersville Trustees for worship and their annual meeting on Sept. 11.

We did confirm that Western Quarter is in the county's records as an owner of the Fallowfield Orthodox Burial Ground. Dan Tracey is to confirm whether there is a burial plot map and whether there are plots available.

Parkersville Meeting House is in very good shape. The outside of the cemetery wall is in need of more work than appears from looking just at the side facing the Parkersville property. One section has been notably impacted by tree growing into the wall. They have a well-maintained burial plot map and have plots available.

Maintenance and plans for burial grounds at historic properties is something the committee feels is important for Western Quarter to address. Ascertaining financial support from existing designated funds as well as the physical extent of burials at the grounds are of concern. Determining the extent of burials may require the use of ground scanning radar as early burials may not have had markers and burials of enslaved or indigenous peoples on the grounds may also not have had markers. A search through monthly meeting minutes at Friends Historical Library may be needed.

Upcoming Events and Programs (DW)

Quarterly Meeting at Kennett – program details and a draft of the flyer were shared. The intergenerational program at 9:30 is a living history introduction to Quaker Sarah Mapps Douglass. Virtual connection is available upon request.

Beyond Meeting for Business Creating Equity Centered Meetings - invitation from Westtown Meeting for a series of conversations and workshops to start in the spring. A detailed description is on the [Western Quarter blog](https://westernquarterquakers.org/invitation-beyond-meeting-for-business-creating-equity-centered-meetings/), <https://westernquarterquakers.org/invitation-beyond-meeting-for-business-creating-equity-centered-meetings/>.

Holiday Gatherings - please let Deb know when your monthly meeting has an event planned. We sometimes find that 12th month is full enough and we suspend Support Committee in 12th month.

The first 2023 Western Quarter gathering is 15 January, 2023 at Centre. We will share on the 11th Query.

Historical Properties meets virtually 3rd Sundays at 3 when there is no WQ meeting. Historical Properties will meet on Sept. 25.

Aging Concerns meets virtually 4th Mondays at 7:30 pm.

We closed with a period of worship.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Wood, coordinator