



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

‘When all the ordinary divides and patterns are shattered, people step up to become their brothers’ keepers. And that purposefulness and connectedness bring joy even amidst death, chaos, fear, and loss.’ *Rebecca Solnit*

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business 19th Day Fourth Month 2020

Opening Silent Worship Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:30 a.m. with a brief period of silence.



Attending: 30 attended: Kathleen Bangert, Gwen Beegle, Molly Burgoyne Bryan, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Catherine Cripps, Bob Day, Stephanie French, Jeanne Halpin, John Hawkinson, Marcie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Joyce Macijeski, Steven Meixner, Priscilla Morris, Beth Mufson, Amy Owsley, Cynthia Quast, , Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, Heidi Wetzl.

Comments on Fourth Query-Nurturing Our Community

This query is appropriate to our time. Pastoral care is the entire meeting’s mission. We are fortunate with how much we do care for each other.

Approval of Minutes from March Meeting for Worship for Business-Approved

Clerk’s Desk- Discussion of current committee work

Request for membership from Jonathan Williams. Referred to Pastoral Care. Clearness committee: Nancy Robbins, convener, John Schreiner, Candace Shattuck

Committee briefs:

Pastoral Care is meeting every other Friday at 4:30 p.m. by Zoom (all welcome) re emerging issues among members and attenders. Financial needs are a new issue. PYM resources can be accessed if someone needs help with serious economic hardship. John Hawkinson, Marie Leonard, Tom Corl and Dona Sorce met re burial grounds to develop a user friendly reservation system. The directory update nears completion.

First Day School: Consulting with our First Day School committee and families yielded the feeling that “simpler is better” regarding children’s offerings during this time. Third Haven families and friends has been invited to join West Chester Meeting for their weekly virtual First Day School, organized by PYM’s Melinda Wenner-Bradley. There have been several Third Haven friends joining in and enjoying the community and lessons. Additionally, PYM has turned several of their family meetups to Zoom format, making them even more accessible to our families. To help connect within our Meeting, Susan Claggett is organizing for Third Haven a virtual First Day School for Sunday, April 26 (details forthcoming). Regarding other outreach for families from Third Haven, our Little SPICES program has been cancelled after one session due to the COVID-19 shutdown, and we also are watching carefully to discern whether we should proceed with our planned summer camps. Members noted that TACL is seeking bible stories and recordings; we can share Quaker based stories with them. Also, Faith and Play has a youtube channel.

Worship and Ministry: The major topic is that virtual meeting for worship is a good way to stay in contact. Website WM features are being changed. Gwen Beegle, Susan, Claggett, and Tom Corl are consulting with the communication committee.

Property and Grounds: The Brick Meeting House and the Common Room were cleaned thoroughly and closed. Clean -up day will be scheduled when life on campus is possible. New doors will be built for the front of the BMH thanks to generous donation. The flower garden idea is percolating.

Outreach has been postponed due to having only 3 members and the current virus situation. The small committee is rethinking their role. Help is welcome and was offered by a member.

Testimonies and Concerns: Note the Giving Guide distributed in December. Based on this month’s query reach to the local community, climate change action committee, immigration task force, Chesapeake Cultural Resource Center, Mid Shore Pro Bono, and food banks are suggested. The ACLU currently pursues a civil suit on behalf of immigrants.. Email and letter to immigrants in detention options will be publicized through announcements. Some of our members are pen pals with immigrants. Cards and calls to local meeting members who have not been electronically connected might be helpful too. Climate change may stay on the back burner in the future legislature unless citizens keep it visible.

Treasurer's Report – *Cynthia Quast Accepted*

For the third quarter of our 2019/20 fiscal year we have the following results:

Member contributions total almost \$35,000 or 66% of our annual budget. Our Attender contributions total \$10,000 or 157% of our budget. Our total income was over \$49,000 or 75% of the budget. Our ordinary expenses total over \$50,600 or 77% of our expense budget. This gives us a net ordinary income year-to-date of -\$1,294.

On Balance Sheet as of 3/31/20, we had over \$59,000 in our operating checking account and over \$60,600 in our Invested operating funds at Friends Fiduciary. Invested funds are down from \$73,000 on 12/31/19. In comparing this year-to-date to the prior year, our Member contributions are up by over \$8,600 and expenses are also up by \$7,600 giving us a net income that is \$4,000 greater than last year.

Detailed spread sheets may be found on our website.

Work is ongoing on the budget for next fiscal year which will be presented at the May meeting for business.

Planning Committee Annual Report *Ben Tilghman Accepted*

The newly formed Planning Committee evolved from an ad hoc committee which was chartered with devising a strategy to execute the findings of our strategic planning session held in 2019. The committee was officially established by Meeting in early 2020.

In very broad terms, the Committee's purpose is to take the "sense of the Meeting's" long term vision for the future and analyze the existing property and grounds to see how well they support the Meeting's vision. Having done so, the Committee would then create a plan to make any changes to the property in support of the vision, and ultimately, execute the plan.

The strategic planning exercise made clear that Friends are in close alignment with a vision of Third Haven functioning well as a spiritual sanctuary, effectively supporting community goals, and enjoying an active and growing First Day school. The Planning Committee accepted these premises as a starting point, and began to analyze how well our property and grounds supports this vision.

There are some significant issues. We are utilizing two meeting houses half the year, are running out of dedicated meeting space for various committees and acknowledge that the current accommodations for the First day School present significant safety and access risks. The Committee quickly realized that achieving a solution to these issues was well beyond the capabilities of Friends in the Meeting and proceeded to solicit outside professional advice.

Based on the responses to our seven requests for proposal, we have selected four architectural firms whom we believe capable of helping us to generate a master plan for the property and grounds. We have drafted letters of inquiry and an agenda for a charrette* with each of the four firms, inviting them to come to Third Haven to present their observations and suggestions. In return, we will offer each firm recompense of \$1,200 to cover travel and preparation expenses. At Meeting for Business last month,

Meeting agreed to allocate \$5,000 from cash on hand to cover the charrettes, with the observation, but not an authorization by Meeting, that there will likely be an additional \$10-20,000 required to complete the Master Plan. Funds necessary to execute the Master Plan (construction) will be determined once the Master Plan is approved by the meeting. The Covid 19 environment led the committee to decide to assemble packets and requests to the 4 candidates next month with in- person meetings to be held once distancing restrictions are lifted.

New Business

Friends find what we are doing with virtual meetings and phone calls helps us find our way through the virus situation.

Question: How will we address the need for funerals or weddings? This will be addressed by Pastoral Care. Eventually Norman Hackland's wife would like to have a memorial service at Third Haven.

Southern Quarter may have a virtual quarterly meeting in May with Molly's help.

Please continue donations to the Neighborhood Service Center on their website or with food.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 12:40.

D. Rein, Recorder

Current Events

During April, 2020 our community in general and our Quaker Community in particular switched to a quarantine mode in order to protect ourselves from the virulent Covid 19 pandemic. Third Haven buildings and grounds are closed until further notice. Our meetings for worship, First Day School as well as committees and meeting for business have avoided direct human contact using virtual computer and electronic technology. Some have quibbled that "it isn't as good." We have chosen to protect our vulnerable population.

Virtual Meetings for Worship continue

First Day, Sunday at 10 a.m.

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Technology help is available for anyone wishing a consult.

Further Information contact: 3rdhaven@gmail.com

Faith & Play are sharing stories on their new YouTube channel - they are adding a new one every week. Families can enjoy some of their favorite Quaker stories by some wonderful storytellers here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWD4MjHBRhYEM8mFwJj911A>

NEW! First Day School – Zoom info will be updated weekly in the announcements.

Susan Claggett will be leading a Third Haven Meeting First Day School on April 26. We will begin at 10:15, for about thirty minutes. Susan will be sharing a Faith & Play Story, something familiar and comforting for our kids during this unusual time. It couldn't be easier to dial in, plus, we get to attend from our couch in PJs! We sure would like to see and connect with you.

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The **Third Haven newsletter** circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

Announcements <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>

Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>

Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>