

**THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING**  
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business  
6th Month, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Participants: (hybrid)** Molly Brian, Mia Brown-Eckerd, Tom Corl, Larny Claggett, Susan Claggett, Amy Kimball, Bill Lane, Steve Meixner, Clinton Pettus, Kathryn Pettus, Priscilla Sener, John Schreiner, Jonathan Slocum, Nancy Stanford, John Turner, Jonathan Williams, Winslow Womack, Mary Yancey

**Opening Silent Worship.** Co-clerk Tom Corl began the meeting with a period of silent worship at approximately 11:40 A.M.

**Comments on 6<sup>th</sup> Query as Read at Meeting for Worship.** There were no comments.

**Approval of Minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> Month, 10<sup>th</sup> Day, 2024 Meeting for Business.** The minutes were approved as presented.

**Clerk's Items.**

Tom indicated that the welcoming committee for Matthew Gray has yet to be able to meet with him.

Tom reported that there was a very nice memorial service for Margaret Peck Iovino at Third Haven on June 8, 2024. Forty-five to 50 people attended. Although the memorial service was not under the care of the Meeting, at the request of the family, it was conducted in the manner of Friends and followed by a nice reception for all who attended. Tom indicated that expressions of appreciation were received from people who attended. However, Tom noted that many of them may not have known what our Quaker meeting was or that the meeting house existed.

**Proposed Budget for FY 2025.** The second reading of the FY2025 budget was presented by Bill Lane and approved by the Meeting. Copies will be circulated with announcements.

**First Day School Annual Report. Accepted** Susan Claggett presented the annual report for First Day School.

Annual Report, 6<sup>th</sup> Month 2024  
First Day School  
**Third Haven Friends Meeting**

In reading back my notes of our First Day School program for the year, I am amazed at all the different ideas, Quaker testimonies and projects the kids were exposed to. Our grounds supply a rich classroom and many Sunday mornings, the kids learned of Spirit through the natural world, a lot like George Fox and John Woolman. Plus, with varying class size/ages of kids every week, the teachers got creative. Throughout the Fall 2023, we were very blessed to have Miss Cherie Baron as paid staff helping us 2x a month. Some of her ideas included "Ways that children Shine their Light," being "Uniquely You," building waterworks with straws, and outdoor painting with natural quills. Miss Cherie and Miss Kristin Hanlon will also be leading

our Summer Mindfulness camp held in late June this year here on the grounds. Also, the First Day School acknowledges the contributions of Beth Mufson and Jon Williams as FDS helpers

Third Haven counts 12 families with @25 children under its care. Our annual family gatherings include a “Welcome Back” waffle breakfast in Sept, Family Fun night in October, running the bake sale and kids’ art table at the Dec Art show, holding the traditional Easter Egg Hunt and Dye in late March and finally honoring our graduates during the “Moving Up” ceremony in June where FDS along with Hospitality hosted the year end potluck picnic for the Meeting.

Focusing this year on our 6 Quaker testimonies, Susan was able to share the Godly Play story of “The Good Samaritan” and the Faith and Play story entitled “Gifts.” Other teachers this year, Sarah Hildebrand, Sally Claggett, Tom Corl helped kids understand stewardship of nature and Dee Rein read “Who’s My Neighborhood “discussing” acceptance and community.

FDS is pleased to organize and run the annual summer mindfulness camp where both young Quaker families as well as those of the community gather for a weeklong program on our hallowed grounds. As of this date, the morning session attendance is full and the afternoon session is 3/4 full.

Sarah Hildebrand, Lisa Kluepfel and Sarah Claggett helped to make the committee complete. Whenever I call out an SOS, these women continue to step up. But it takes a village, and my heartfelt thanks goes out to all the parents and all the Meeting members who contribute to the lives of our Quaker families. They are our future, and I am blessed to be part of their growing lives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Claggett, Clerk of First Day School

The clerk asked if Friends accepted the report with appreciation to Susan and all who had continued to support First Day School. The clerk noted that there was robust approval.

**Planning Update.** Tom Corl reported that the Planning Committee had been working with three different contractors (Willow, Harper, and Daffin) on our Phase One project. We are still waiting for estimates. Tom and Steve Meixner visited Milner, Chadds Ford, Pa., and discussed issues with their drawings that needed clarification or correction. The most important issue concerns drainage of water around the Brick Meeting House accessibility ramp. The architects proposed several solutions including gutters and drains. However, the Planning Committee will review the solutions proposed. This may entail some additional cost.

A Friend reported that Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake had made grants of up to \$5000 to some faith communities with drainage problems and might do the same for Third Haven if we applied.

Tom reported that the grant application for \$9000 to the Chesapeake Bay Trust was not successful. The Planning Committee and the Meeting will have to decide how to proceed with the tree succession project and its financing.

### **New Business**

A question was raised about whether the rhododendrons beside the meeting house should be trimmed. If so, the question would be whether there should be “maintenance or preventive pruning” or something more substantial, such as “rejuvenation pruning” to stimulate new growth and improve appearance. It was agreed that proximity to the building and the elevation of the plants needed to be addressed. To this, a Friend stated that the rhododendrons would never have a chance to bloom if we prune them substantially each year. Another Friend responded that we could establish a schedule where pruning would occur every three to four years, giving the rhododendrons a chance to bloom during the intervening years. With this, it was agreed that Building and Grounds would be authorized to seek advice on how best to prune the rhododendrons, to prevent moisture from getting to the Brick Meeting House but also allow the rhododendrons to bloom.

Susan Claggett reported that she, as clerk of the First Day School, had applied for a \$5000 waterfowl festival grant, which was focused on children's learning spaces. Susan said she expected to learn whether her application was approved sometime later in the spring.

**Closing.** Since there was no further business, the clerk closed the meeting with a period of silent worship at 12:10pm.

Molly Brian and Clinton Pettus, Recording Clerks