2020-07-12 Frederick Friends Meeting for Business Minutes (Final)

In attendance
Annette Breiling, Karen Lockett, Carlotta Joyner, Michele Hartley, Lynn Diviak, Steve White, David Kunz, Julie Kunz, Ann Payne, Kathy Funkhouser, Nick Funkhouser, Andrea Norouzi, Karen White, James Wagner, Greg Tobin, Betsy Tobin
(Most Friends joined by Zoom)

Meeting began with a moment of worship

2020-07-01 Trustees – (Greg Tobin acting Recording Clerk) Betsy Tobin read the annual report of the Board of Trustees
Betsy listed some of the responsibilities of the Trustees and several of the tasks completed over the past year. Of particular note, Betsy mentioned Trustees discussions on the topics of a recent restricted gift, several communications issues, and changes in Trustees responsibilities related to property issues.
Current Trustees include JoAnn Coates-Hunter (Clerk), Helen Tasker (outgoing Trustee), Ethan Bliss, Jennifer Brooks (incoming Trustee), Greg Tobin (Treasurer), Betsy Tobin (Co-Clerk of Meeting)
Report was accepted with corrections

We would like to minute our appreciation for Helen Tasker and her service to our FFM Community during her tenure on Trustees. Helen's grounded presence and Quaker insight have been a valuable part of our meetings.

2020-07-02
Peace and Social Concerns – Andrea Norouzi, Peace Ribbon Project
The Peace Ribbon Project is a nationwide project of making banners depicting what one would miss in the event of a nuclear war. The banners are tied together with ribbon, making one long statement for peace.
Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) would like to hang the Peace Banners on the front porch for the week of August 1-7. The banners would then be moved to the Capital Grounds on August 8 for the national gathering in memory of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
The question of whether to make this an advertised public event or private event was discussed. The question of whether to invite the press was discussed. The question of having a vigil, and/or information sharing was discussed.
One friend suggested posting the event on our Facebook Page. After discussion, this friend withdrew the request.
At this time Peace and Social Concerns does not feel that they have the energy to be responsible for a public event. P&SC was heavily involved with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peaceful Potluck in February and hosted the Picnic for Peace in July. The concerns of planning a public event during the pandemic
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was an additional factor.
Meeting approved P&SC inviting the press to the hanging of the Ribbon Project and a period of worship for the Frederick Friends Community. The details will be worked out by the committee.

2020-07-03
Peace and Social Concerns – Jim Wagner, #stillhere project
Jim brought the request that Frederick Friends Meeting add our name to the website https://www.hiroshimanagasaki75.org/partners (text of statement attached). The website statement acknowledges that the USA is the only country to ever use nuclear weapons in conflict. In addition it calls on leaders to assure that these weapons are never used again and implores leaders to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.
Meeting approved being listed as a “Partner” on the website and asked Jim to fill out the website form. Jim asked about describing the Ribbon Project on the #stillhere website. It was decided that it could be included for information purposes but not as an invitation.
Jim and Betsy will work together on wording the information for the website.

2020-07-04
Stewardship and Finance – Michele Hartley, Proposal to reduce budget deficit
Michele read the report (attached). This is not the Annual Report, Stewardship and Finance (S&F) is concerned about the deficit in our budget for this year. The current projection is a $7-8k deficit. S&F proposed several possible ways to reduce spending for the rest of the year. After much discussion we decided to look at each option individually. Meeting approved eliminating our extra $600/month payment on our mortgage. Meeting approved eliminating Adult Scholarships. Meeting delayed deciding on Charitable Giving until later in the year.

2020-07-05
Meeting decided that we do not need to meet in August.

Clerks ask everyone to get agenda items to us WELL in advance of Meeting for Business.

Meeting adjourned with worship.

Our next Meeting for Business will be September 13th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Funkhouser, Clerk
Betsy Tobin, Recording Clerk

Greg Tobin, Recording Clerk
Frederick Friends Board of Trustees are the entity responsible for legal matters of Frederick Friends Meeting (FFM). We negotiate contracts – leases, insurances, mortgage - oversee investments and restricted gifts.

Each year we review our Child Safety Policy and our insurance coverage. In the fall we renewed our mortgage and arranged for a Friend to stay in the Meeting House during a temporary period of homelessness.

During the winter we were saddened by the passing of Guy Burkett, the longtime resident of our 3rd floor apartment. We appreciated FFM Property Committee's efforts to prepare Guy's apartment for a new tenant. We completed the lead inspection, a state requirement between tenants for our building. We were happy to welcome our new tenant, who grew up in FFM.

In gratitude of the spirit and efforts of FFM, Guy Burkett's sister, BettyJo Burkett, made a $5,000 gift to meeting, her letter is attached. As part of our oversight of restricted gifts, we are working with Property Committee to assure FFM works within the parameters of this generous gift.

In the process of looking at the overall finances of FFM, Stewardship and Finance recommended converting one of the former First Day School rooms into another rental space. FFM Meeting for Business approved this. This decision led to some misunderstandings and hurt feelings. Discussions about who/what we are as a community followed. Were we more interested in money than spirit? We learned that communication and lack thereof is the root of several issues at FFM. We hope that we are learning to communicate with each other more clearly. (The Covid-19 outbreak put a damper on renting the space. Finding a new tenant is on hold for now.)

During these discussions, FFM decided to rearrange some of the responsibilities for our building. Property Committee rewrote their Charges in the Guidance Document which led to Trustees rewriting ours. We are taking on more of the building use responsibilities.

Trustees spent time reflecting on our committee and how we function. We had been functioning without a clerk and trading off who called meetings. We decided that we needed a clerk. We named JoAnn Coates-Hunter as our Clerk.

FFM has discussed getting WiFi for our building for several years. With the help of David Kunz and Jason Laird, Trustees were able to get WiFi installed late this spring.
We would like to minute our appreciation for Helen Tasker and her service to our FFM Community during her tenure on Trustees. Helen's grounded presence and Quaker insight have been a valuable part of our meetings.

We welcome Jennifer Brooks to FFM Trustees and look forward to the wisdom she brings to our work.

In peace,
Frederick Friends Trustees

JoAnn Coates-Hunter, Greg Tobin, Ethan Bliss, Jennifer Brooks, Betsy Tobin
Attachment 2
P & SC enthusiastically approves the Hanging of the Ribbon. We’ll be hanging it Sat. Aug. 1st between 10:30 – 11:30. We Welcome Friends to join in the hanging or just come & share their reflections

1) We’d like to ask if it would be acceptable to Meeting invite the press to attend?

2) Our banner will hang on the porch Aug 1st – 7th, then travel to the "In Person" event at the Capital grounds on Saturday Aug. 8th.

Andrea will have a handout for the press with information from the Peace Ribbon website.
Seventy-five years ago, the United States conducted two nuclear attacks against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, devastating their populations and destroying their infrastructure. In the process of manufacturing and testing these weapons, civilians within downwind communities, nuclear workers, uranium miners and their families, and military personnel were also exposed to harmful and sometimes deadly levels of ionizing radiation. Following their use in Japan, the production and past testing of nuclear weapons in the United States and internationally continues to harm the health, environment, and cultures of communities around the world.

Today, we are living in a time of extraordinary nuclear dangers. Vital international agreements to reduce and control nuclear weapons worldwide are being abandoned. Budgets for the development and production of new nuclear weapons are growing. Tensions among nuclear-armed nations are rising to levels not seen since the Cold War.

As the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki warn: “We are badly off course in efforts to honor the plea of the hibakusha and end the nuclear threat.”

People created these weapons and designed the systems governing their use; people can work to eliminate them.

As the only country to use nuclear weapons in conflict, the United States has a moral obligation to lead the world in ending this menace and restoring communities impacted by nuclear weapons.

We must press our leaders to take the actions necessary to ensure nuclear weapons are never used again and to negotiate in good faith the global elimination of these most devastating weapons of mass destruction.