

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
6th Month, 7th Day, 2020
(06/07/2020)
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom.

Present: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Julie R (Zoom host), Jenn D., Will C., Margaret C., Carl B., Ann R., Barb T., Cairn K., Christina F., Dot W., Wes J., Ted R., Jack H., Jack L., Jean C., Jeanne W., Joan M., JoAnne S., Karen C., Larry M., Lee L., Marcia O., Margaret H., Marjorie K., Martha O., Mary B., Nathan S., Pat S., Patty R., Phil C., Peter M., Ria H., Sheila M., Sky E., Nan E., and Tom W.

9:00 am Opening: We began with centering silent worship that included the AFM Anti-racist Declaration minute and queries displayed on the screen. After welcoming all, the clerk gave voice to the inhumane treatment and racist systemic practices elucidated by Mr. George Floyd's murder and the multitude of feelings that event generated for all of us. The AFM Anti-racist Declaration provides us with a framework and the queries were read aloud. The agenda was displayed and read aloud.

Agenda Items:

1. Treasurer's Report:

- Although not on the original agenda, a Friend requested that S&F Committee provide a Budget report. On behalf of S&F, Wes J stated that a budget report was not ready today and would be sure to put it on the agenda for the 7th month.

2. 5th Month MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Review & Approve:

- The recording clerk presented the 5th month meeting minutes that were emailed on the Announce List on May 4th and again today (06/07/2020). A request for approval of the meeting minutes was made and the minutes were approved. See the attached.

3. CREC Summer Plans:

- Children's Religious Education Committee (CREC) asked for F/friends to help through the summer by being a Zoom host and helping lead the CREC program so that the children can continue meeting. It was noted that summer camps were cancelled due to the pandemic and that it would be good for the children to have a Quaker hangout. An email request will be sent on the Announce List and those interested should email Jen D-M.

4. Ministry & Worship (M&W):

- On behalf of M&W, Tom W. expressed personal appreciation for Carl B.'s request to become a member of Annapolis Friends Meeting. Jean C, who was part of Carl's clearness process, read Carl's letter requesting membership. The clearness committee met in May 2020 and came to unity for recommending that Carl be embraced into membership within the AFM Community. A Friend reminded us that, in Friends, membership grows out of a spiritual commitment and affirms conviction to fundamental elements of being a Quaker. The Meeting joyfully embraced and accepted the recommendation from the clearness committee to record Carl as a member. Carl expressed his appreciation for the

recommendation and acceptance as a member saying that it is wonderful to be a part of the AFM community.

5. Newsletter:

- On behalf of Susan W, Tom W informed Meeting that Susan will be laying down the AFM Newsletter Editor position. Friends expressed appreciation for all the work that Susan provided AFM as the Newsletter Editor for all these years. It was noted that the announcement is notification to both the Nominating Committee and Outreach Committee to deliberate on steps forward. A discussion followed. A Friend suggested that the website could take the place of the newsletter. Another Friend expressed that we not depend solely on the website to replace the newsletter because some F/friends prefer to read a newsletter and would seldom go to the website. Additionally, it was mentioned that while in the lobby of the Meetinghouse, it is better to hand a newcomer a newsletter than it would be to provide a website address. Ellen M reported that the Website Content Group has considered the possibility that the website may be a replacement for the newsletter, but there are five newsletters that are mailed using USPS and an alternative would need to be identified. Also, the website does not currently include various articles that the newsletter usually has and the Meeting would need volunteers to write and/or research articles to post on the website.

6. Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) Committee:

- AFM Floyd Letter to the Editor: on behalf of Friends who requested that a letter be sent to the editor about AFM's stand with regards to George Floyd's murder and the P&SC Committee, Phil C presented the following:
 - i. Letter to the Editor - Draft: George Floyd Request for Structural, Social and Cultural Change. Seeking approval to send the letter to the editor from AFM.
 1. Suggestions for improvement were presented and a concern was shared that the letter might not express a Quaker perspective – seeking the light within and seeking peace. The suggestion was that perhaps it would be good to include something that states the importance of helping the police learn and build ways to re-establish trust, honor and respect between the police and the community. Another Friend expressed that in West Virginia, the poor white people are also disproportionately abused by the police.
 2. A Friend expressed the need to take into account the current events and to move the letter forward--not to delay. Another Friend expressed how difficult it is to discern what our roles are with regards to this protest and reform. Beyond the letter, another Friend questioned what the most effective ways for the Meeting to support the protesters and help with supplies, resources and funds. A Friend emphasized that although there are other injustices in our country, this is the moment that we need to focus on Black Lives Matter and how important that is as a present moment focus. Others expressed unity with focusing on Black Lives Matter at this time. A Friend expressed that we are not limited to one letter and can send the current letter now while preparing another letter that could go out later to discuss the need for reconciliation. A suggestion was made to have a called meeting soon on only this topic for more discussion.
 3. Gratitude was expressed by Friends for the efforts Phil and the PS&C Committee.

4. The concept of the draft letter was approved and suggestions for improvement will be taken into consideration by PS&C to be included in the letter that will be sent as quickly as possible. See attached.

7. Stretch Break: The clerk suggested that we take a break for 3 or 4 minutes to prevent Zoom-fatigue and Friends were most appreciative for the opportunity to stretch and look away from the screens. Returning to the meeting, Friends settled into silence.

8. Black Lives Matter banner:

- On behalf of Change Group, Phil C., explained that the banner was put back up after the wind and weather caused the fence to break that the banner was attached to. The Committee is planning on building a permanent frame for the banner and possibly updating the wording. Change Group asked if Meeting would approve the concept of installing a structure and possibly updating the wording by establishing a small group to make the changes. Meeting approved the concept and that the new small group would discern the next steps. A Friend suggested to check with St. Philips about their choice of wording for the banner.

9. Mary D.'s leading:

- On behalf of Mary D., Phil C., announced that Mary expressed that she felt a burden as a white person to denounce the injustices. Her plan is to write a long letter and pay for a full page ad in the Capital. It was noted that the notice in the newspaper would not be a “Quaker thing”, but it would be white person’s piece. Mary will ask others to sign as they are led. Phil requested that the Meeting support Mary’s leading by allowing her to announce it on the listserv and invite people to sign and/or contribute financially to the cost of the ad. The clerk of Outreach noted that if the information is placed on the Announce List, Friends should be reminded to respond only to the sender and not to all. Others noted that is more appropriate to post the information on the Discuss List. It should be clear that financial support for the newspaper ad is separate from AFM, does not come through the Meeting, or pass through AFM as a charitable donation. The funds need to be managed separately outside of AFM. Meeting approved that the announcement could be distributed on the AFM Discuss List with request for financial donations if appropriate clarity is given as discussed.

10. Planning for the Physical Return to the Meetinghouse Update:

- The clerk briefly reviewed the decision-making process related to COVID-19 over the past 3 months. AFM started meeting via teleconference, then Zoom, in early March. Decisions about continuing these plans have been reviewed and continued monthly at committee clerks’ meetings.
- Since the Committee Clerks meeting in late April, the governor moved from a “Stay at Home” order to “Safer at Home” guidance and gave authority for decisions at the County level. A March 20 Anne Arundel County order continued to restrict Faith Groups from gathering. The most recent Anne Arundel Guidelines for Faith Communities state “In this early stage of recovery, the Department recommends religious services be virtual or on parking lots with the congregation in their vehicles during the services.” (June 5) <https://www.aacounty.org/coronavirus/road-to-recovery/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Houses%20of%20Worship.pdf>
- The clerk suggested there are two different questions to consider:
 - i. Can we get back together?

First, we need to meet County guidance and consider other practices to ensure safety. Meeting House & Land (MH&L) Committee has been doing preliminary work to identify practices needed for re-opening.

ii. Even if we can get back together, should we get back together?

We miss each other and want to meet face-to-face

We are potentially making decisions that could have “life and death” consequence.

We still don’t know a lot about the disease but large group size and duration and closeness of contact appear to contribute to the spread. Many of us fall into a high-risk category based on age.

It is important for our decision to take into account impacts on our neighbors (with help from our AFM Anti-racist queries).

• During the committees’ clerks meeting held on May 31, 2020, the committee clerks reached unity to bring the following recommendations to this MfW wAtB for consideration:

i. **Extend our current AFM practices indefinitely until such time as there is unity on a different path forward.** This mitigates the need to scramble around making short-term decisions and provides sufficient time to ensure that we can meet the guidance that AAC outlines and other safety protocols.

ii. **Identify a smaller group in the Meeting to scope out phases of a possible path for physical return to the Meetinghouse.**

Similar to what has been done nationally and statewide, this group can help think through reopening as a gradual, step-by-step process, identify questions that need to be answered, seek input as we proceed and hopefully explore creative ideas to try.

• After a discussion and receiving comments, Meeting was in unity and affirmed the recommendations brought forth from the committee clerks’ meeting.

11. Silent Reports: Due to the time constraints, other items on the agenda were offered as Silent Reports and attached to these minutes.

- Stewardship and Finance Report
- Quaker Conference Update & Other Events

Closing: AFM MfW wAtB ended with centering silence. The plan for the Meeting minutes was for the recording clerk to send the draft meeting minutes to the Announce List, so that Friends can review the draft minutes and provide feedback. The minutes will be approved at the beginning of the next MfW wAtB.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M., Recording Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from 5th month MfW wAtB
- Silent Reports 06-07-2020
- Upcoming Quaker Events
- DRAFT Letter to the Editor G. Floyd

June 7, 2020

AFM Silent Reports

1. Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Committee:

- a. **Rental Income.** What was a 2020 Forecast of 18,500 is now reduced by her to be (at best, maybe?) 6,190 Obviously this creates a situation that is challenging in ways we didn't anticipate when the budget was agreed to. This will become the main focus at S&F next, and I will be alerting all in the cmte to this to consider beforehand.
- b. **Bank Transfers** – Re: Contributions Letter procedures regarding setting up automatic funds transfers into the AFM BB&T Account. Some have encountered issues with setting these up as easily as the letter suggests. I know that the AFM Account enables this convenience because many are doing so, and some have been for many years. We reiterate this is the easiest way for the Treasurer to receive funds on a one-time or recurring basis. However, your bank or credit union may treat these differently, and may need some hand-holding to ensure the funds transfer is set up properly. In specific, when a funds transfer is set up, it must be ensured that the source of the funds (you, the donor) is properly identified for attribution in each and every transaction. When this is not done, then the donation effectively becomes “anonymous” and acknowledgment for IRS purposes cannot be assured. S&F will be happy to assist in this, but you may encounter some difficulty with your bank in order that this be done properly and in sufficient detail to ensure proper recognition of the source of the donation. If you encounter any problems, please discuss this with S&F.
- c. **Restricted Donations.** AFM has decided to discourage targeted (restricted) donations to AFM causes. In other words, in accordance with IRS regulations regarding non-profit 501(c)(3) financial practices, donations that are earmarked for restrictive causes (usually done by a note in the memo line of the check that is the donation) can only be accepted if the donor understands that by making the donation in order to claim tax-deductibility for same they are ultimately relinquishing control of the contribution to AFM. To do otherwise (that is, making the donation contingent on its use) means the donor is maintaining control, and that is prohibited by regulation. It also presents an accounting issue for the Treasurer who must somehow keep track of those targeted donations separately from unrestricted funds. When a restrictive memo appears, AFM (our Treasurer) will interpret the memo caveat as a suggestion rather than a binding agreement for acceptance of the funds, but will make every effort to honor the wishes of the donor. Questions about this policy are welcome, but ultimately this is driven by federal regulation.
- d. **ID Funds Review and Modifications.** Friends are reminded that large expenditures from ID Funds need to follow policy guidelines as set down in

the Funds Descriptions. S&F will assist committees in reviewing these policy guidelines for each Fund and affirm committee satisfaction with the terms. We will begin a review of the four funds under MH&L oversight as they include the largest and represent a preponderance of AFM assets (Capital Replacement, Capital Improvement, Memorial Garden and Services, and the Building Fund).

- e. **AFM Balance Sheet, Treasurer’s Report, Budget and Asset Accounts.** Our Treasurer’s Report details the savings assets that comprise the location of the bins, if you will, that comprise our funds’ assets. Specifically, there is little to no correlation between our banking investment accounts and the resident funds that are contained in those accounts (save for one, the Founder’s Fund, which resides entirely and is solely represented by our Sandy Spring Savings CD Account). Our five “Bank” Accounts are comprised of the following detailed in our Balance Sheet:

Bank Accounts	
BB&T CD	101,033.37
BB&T Checking	44,799.79
Capital One (old ING Orange)	123,602.95
Friends Fiduciary Corporation	104,622.58
Sandy Springs Savings Bank CD	10,620.03
Total Bank Accounts	384,678.72

- f. What this means is that only our BB&T Checking Account represents liquid assets that can be readily drawn upon to execute budget activities. Also as mentioned only the Sandy Spring Savings Bank CD contains the entirety of assets of the Founder’s Fund. The remaining twelve ID Funds assets are distributed among the top four banking/investment accounts with the largest three less liquid than the assets in the BB&T Checking Account. Thus, if we intend to make a sizable expenditure out of any of the twelve ID Funds, then they will possibly, in some cases likely, not be available from the Checking Account and will require a draw from the three largest investment accounts (BB&T CD, Capital One, and Friends Fiduciary). This requires we exercise foresight in planning for larger expenditures from ID Funds so that necessary withdrawals can be made from these three asset funds. Large expenditures

are usually in the province of MH&L, but they can really arise from the activities of all committees. The bottom line: if any committee foresees a need to draw down significant assets from any of the ID funds under their oversight, S&F must be alerted as early as practicable in order that the funds can be made available to the Treasurer and S&F for execution of the expense.

- g. Our current total of ID Funds obligations is 314,747. Our latest Balance Sheet Totals of all cash assets is 383,821. The difference is 69,074. That is largely accounted for by our operating budget obligations but will never be equal sums because the time stamps on these figures are never the same, and investment funds, especially the FF Fund are subject to market fluctuations.

News from the Broader Quaker World

1. **June Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting** is canceled.
2. Saturday, **June 13 Interim Meeting**—must email Marcy Seitel for link: [Please click here to register to participate.](#)
 - 9:30 Technology check in – bring your questions
 - 9:45 Gather for worship
 - 10:00 Continue worship and begin our meeting for business
 - 11:45 Take a lunch break
 - 12:30 Re-Zoom our meeting
 - 2:00 Closing worship

Topics to include:

- Confirmation of new Interim Meeting Clerk
- Farewell to Ned Stowe, General Secretary; Margo Lehman, Accountant; and Jossie Dowling, STRIDE coordinator
- Announcement of 50% cutbacks of BYM staff
- Consideration of next steps

3. **FGC Workshops** (See May 19 email from Ann Riggs)

Workshops run from **June 28 through July 4.**

Ann recommends, among others:

1. Quakerism 101: An Introduction, with Michael Levi & Jade Eaton and
2. Decolonizing Our Future: A Road to Liberation, with Nia Eubanks-Dixon.

The Gathering website

https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/workshops?utm_source=FGC+E-Newsletters&utm_campaign=956e96eba8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_31_09_07_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term

4. **BYM Annual Sessions and Workshops** (\$100 for everything)

Theme: Courage, Faith and Hope to Love Across our Differences

- **Week of July 20:** 9 workshops and reports
- **Week of July 27:** Retreat, Plenaries, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, 16 workshops.

AFM Workshop Presenters:

- Larry McNeely—*“Experiential Perspective Regarding the Well Being of Persons with Changing Cognition and Alzheimers”*
- Phil Caroom, *“Reparations—Friends’ Role in the Unexpected Vision of Healing Our Racial Divides”*
- Martha Baer, Nancy Jo Steetle—*“Investing our Gifts”*
- Bob Bruniniga—*“Energy Choices for a Sustainable Future”*

Register for Annual Session 2020 online now at: www.bym-rsf.org/events/annualsession

DRAFT

Dear Editor-

Onlookers watched horrified as Mr. Floyd laid on the ground already handcuffed, pinned by police officer's knee on his neck, begging for his life. He pleaded, "Please I can't breathe..."

This well-documented murder of George Floyd is just one of the most recent among the on-going tragedies perpetrated by discriminatory, over-violent and militaristic U.S. law enforcement practices. These practices take the breath from our whole community. We can't breathe! The African American community can't breathe. Therefore, none of us can breathe. We have to allow each other to breathe again by taking the knee from the neck of the communities of people of color.

Mr. Floyd is one of more than 400 civilians killed by police so far this year, following 2019 when over 1,000 were killed, according to the Washington Post database, continuing the trend of many years. It adds to the list of other notorious and harrowing deaths like those of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed in recent months.

These barbaric deaths align with broader patterns of state-sanctioned violence disproportionately impact African Americans – who, although under 13% of the population, are arrest, charged, incarcerated and killed on the streets more than twice as often as whites. Police and others' harassment of those who are African-Americans – U.S. Senator Tim Scott, Prof. Henry Gates, Oprah Winfrey, Breonna Taylor, and Christopher Cooper to name a few – perpetuates systemic racial discrimination in our country and, too often, in our criminal justice system. Structural, social, and cultural change is desperately needed.

Pope Paul VI said, paraphrasing the prophet Isaiah, "If you want peace, work for justice." Today, we call on other faith groups and all concerned Marylanders to support House Speaker Adrienne Jones' Workgroup to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland as a first step.

ANNAPOLIS FRIENDS (QUAKER) MEETING