

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
5th Month, 1st Day, 2022
(5/1/2022)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted using Zoom and some participants were in-person at the meetinghouse.

Present online: Arielle J. (recording clerk), Martha O., Jean C., Mike C., Phil C., Sky E., Nan E., Minette C., Martha L., Ria H., Phyllis S., Ann R., Al B., Marcia O.; present in the meetinghouse: Karen C. (assistant clerk), Barb T., Pat R., Peter M., Joan M., Cairn K., Jenn D., JoAnna S., Dot W., Mary B., Sheila M.

9:00 am Opening: The assistant clerk, Karen C. welcomed all of us and invited us to settle into some silent centering worship.

Agenda:

- 1) 4th Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved: The previous MfW wAtB was held on April 3, 2022 and the draft minutes were sent via email on the Announce list (AFM-Announce@googlegroups.com) in April. No changes were noted and the minutes were approved.
- 2) Pastoral Care (PC): Barb T. provided an update on upcoming memorial meetings and minutes.
 - a) On May 21st a memorial service will be held for Lee L. Service in the memorial garden will take place from 12-1pm with a reception afterward from 1-2pm. The memorial minute for Lee L. is nearly complete and a request was put out for Friends to volunteer to help out with food, parking, music, etc.;
 - b) On July 16th a memorial service will be held for Bob B. A draft memorial minute for Bob B. was read and Friends reflected on the impact he had on the AFM community and the community at large. The final draft will be circulated to AfM for review.
- 3) Meetinghouse and Lands (MH&L): Karen C. reported that MH&L has learned that our insurance policy only permits service animals on the property.
- 4) Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC): On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. shared the following announcements and requests:
 - a) Afghan refugee family update: Phil C. shared that we have been assigned to a family of 5 and reminded friends about the privacy requirements going forward with providing support.
 - i) P&SC plan to host a social event once possible for friends to meet the family.
 - ii) Friends can continue to help with financial and in-kind donations along with joining committees being coordinated by friend JoAnna S.
 - b) Report & request for the Afghan refugee family project: Joan P. shared an update on the housing search and current market. Potential landlords have expressed concerns about renting to people without a US credit rating so there may be a need for AFM to address how to assure landlords of our financial support.
 - c) Phil C. shared the report & request to the meeting and additional needs while

noting little risk to co-sign to help the family secure housing due to nearly \$28,000 in donations already between the Unitarians and AFM.

- i) P&SC is requesting permission to write a letter of assurance for the family to provide available funds or to co-sign a lease with the family.
 - ii) Friends discussed the requests and Phil C. and Joan M. provided further detail about the housing search which includes three priorities: public transportation, affordability, and adequate schooling options for the children. Phil C. confirmed that the AFM trustees have already agreed to follow the recommendation of MfB on this request. Dot W. noted the need for a contingency plan in the unlikely event that the Treasurers need to make good on our commitment to ensure that rent is paid.
 - iii) Friends approved P&SC working with the Trustees to develop a letter of support and/or co-sign a lease. In addition, P&SC was directed to work with S&F and the Treasurers to develop a contingency plan..
 - d) Restorative & Retrospective Justice as to Harms of Racism updates: Phil C. shared an update on the possible uses of approved AFM funds and resources to support the impacted community for the purpose of restorative justice and invited Friends to join a meeting for discernment and further discussion.
- 5) Quaker Spring Market: Cairn K. shared an update and request for volunteers to help with the event next Saturday May 7th.

Closing:

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

The recording clerk will send the draft meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review the draft minutes and provide feedback. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the beginning of the next MfW wAtB on June 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Arielle J., Recording Clerk
recording-clerk@gmail.com

ATTACHMENTS:

- [Meeting Minutes \(approved\) from the 4th Month MfW wAtB](#)
- MHL Dog Policy – draft
- Report & request for the Afghan refugee family project

Annapolis Friends Meeting Meeting House and Lands Committee

Dogs on Premises Policy (Draft: March 1, 2022)

For review and discussion at Meeting for Business, March 6, 2022

Only service dogs shall be allowed in the Meeting House. A service dog is defined as *a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability*. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's needs.

Leashed dogs shall be allowed outside the Meeting House except during a meeting for worship. The owner must keep the dog under control at all times.

Dogs with their owners may roam the grounds unleashed if they are alone or accompanied by others in agreement with the situation.

Comfort animals may be allowed into the Meeting House under certain conditions: 1) Ministry and Worship Committee has met with the owner and approved the animal and its owner's reason for the request, 2) the animal does not disrupt the activity occurring at the time, 3) there are no objections from others in the Meeting House at the time.

A REPORT AND REQUEST for the Afghan refugee family project

Annapolis' Peace & Social Concerns (PSC) Committee and Ad Hoc Afghan Refugee Subcommittee report that we have the concern that the refugee family that we are supporting may not be able to "qualify financially" for a landlord's approval of a residential lease. This is a very competitive residential leasing market with rising rental rates, so the family-- lacking a credit rating in the U.S.-- may need another person or entity to write a letter of assurance or to co-sign the lease --such that the co-signer would guarantee payment for the year's lease payments if the family defaulted.

Our (AFM & Unitarians') goal involves 100% support for the family's rent over the first six months with the family becoming partially responsible for its rent cost during the following 6 months, then fully responsible after 12 months. We anticipate that one or both parents--both well-educated professionals in Afghanistan-- will find employment during the next 12 months, despite many hurdles for them.

We believe there is little involved as Friends and collaborating Unitarians collectively already have donated more than \$27,000 in donations, being collected and tallied by the Annapolis Unitarian Church office, with many more pledged, but as yet uncollected donations. While there could be additional expenses, the major expense anticipated is for rental of a home or 3 BR apartment that we expect might cost approximately \$1,800 to \$2,200 per month. In other words, we already have collected all or nearly all the rent payments required -- but cosigning assures the landlord of this fact.

Previously, AFM's Meeting for Business has agreed to approve steps by our numerous volunteers to assist the Afghan refugee family. However, we did not request specific action as to leasing or expenditure of funds as we did not yet have the specific information needed for such a request.

The request: PSC and AHA Friends now request permission for AFM to write a letter of assurance as to available funds and/or to co-sign a proposed lease as necessary to procure 12 months housing for the Afghan family. This would need to be done by our AFM Clerk or an AFM Trustee on behalf of Meeting.