

Supplement
to the
Salem Quarter News
June 2016,
containing minutes from the
June 4, 2016,
Salem Quarterly Meeting

Salem Quarterly Meeting Minutes

6/4/2016

Salem Quarterly Meeting met 6/4/2016 at Seaville Meeting. Out of worship, Steering Committee Clerk Paul Somers (Greenwich) convened the meeting, welcomed Friends and visitors, and expressed our gratitude to Seaville Friends for their gracious hospitality. There was a Friendly presence for business of twenty-six representing all of the seven monthly meetings in the Quarter.

Minutes of the last Quarterly Meeting on 3/13/2016 were approved as they appeared in the Salem Quarter News.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported from the Lower Alloways Creek committee highlighting the most recent event at the Lower Alloways Creek meetinghouse, a Quaker wedding re-enactment as part of the Salem County Historical Society Open House Tour.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, Paul Somers (Greenwich) reported on the updated Quarter web page; the Clerks' meeting in Newtown and upcoming Quarter programs. Friends discussed the need for outreach and revitalization within our meetings, noting that recent national polls on religious status find an increase in adults describing themselves as spiritual rather than aligning with one faith or creed over another.

Communication via the new e-bulletin and SQ News was clarified. Monthly Meetings should share information via their Steering Committee representatives; Quarter committees should send information to the Quarter recording clerk. Beginning with the next issue, SQ News will be a communication that recaps and follows quarterly meeting instead of in advance of quarterly meeting. Advance announcements will be made using the e-bulletin; Meetings should consider printing the e-bulletin and posting it in their meetinghouse for those without internet access.

The Finance Committee report was submitted by Michael Shapiro (Salem). Since last Quarterly Meeting in March 2016, we have received covenant income totaled \$3,100. Our expenses were \$1,470 and included payments for web domain, Carpenter Tree Service, Saw & Square (Port Elizabeth lawn care), and JVS Copy. A \$500 contribution approved at the December Quarterly Meeting was reissued due to a lost check. A \$30 stop payment cost was applied. To date, all but one

of the annual covenants are paid in full for the year. Our current expenses are at or under budget. We anticipate receipt of the biannual Fiduciary payment and the final expenses for the year by the end of the month.

Quarter Nominating Committee presented the following for approval:

Friends Village at Woodstown Board of Trustees—three-year term, nominated by Friends Village, approved by Quarterly Meeting

2019: Sandra Ridgway,

Friends approved the nomination as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Dietrich Preston (Woodbury), of the Tri-Quarter Gathering submitted a report on the 2016 Tri-Quarter Gathering. Registration packets are available and copies of such have been distributed to most of the Monthly Meetings. E-mails and e- bulletin notices are expected to follow. Friends shared very positive feedback about the Tri-Quarter experience.

On behalf of the Indian Affairs Committee, Sandra Boone Murphy (Mickleton), reported. She expressed how blessed the committee feels to be able to interact with the tribal nation. The opportunities we share as Friends to witness and participate in events with the tribe are unparalleled. Members of the committee attended The Gathering on the 19th & 20th days 5th month; Gatherings are family events that rekindle and rejuvenate their traditions. We are honored and privileged to be included in these deeply touching occasions. An invitation is extended to Friends to attend the 33rd annual Pow-wow at Salem Co. Fairgrounds 9th & 10th days 6th month

"Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians from the 1650s to the 21st century" is an interdisciplinary conference examining relations between American Indians, First Nations and the Society of Friends. It will be held from Thursday, November 10, 2016 - 5:00pm to Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 7:00pm. The keynote address will be made at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 34th and Sansom Streets at the University of Pennsylvania with Conference Sessions at Bryn Mawr College and Haverford College.

The Committee met 27th day 3rd month to review the 6 possibilities identified in the First Gathered meeting moving toward state and federal recognition. The court case at the State level has been decided unfavorably; the federal case is still under consideration. The committee plans to meet again in the tenth month. Details will be forthcoming in the Quarter e-bulletin.

The IAC plans to conduct a workshop at this year's Tri-Quarter Gathering and will have a display available as well.

Mike Ayars (Woodstown) reported that Friends Village has opened a new Assisted Living wing. It is mostly filled with only a few openings remaining. It is important to note that this status is a continually changing statistic and interested Friends should not hesitate to explore this option or placing their name on a waiting list.

The Worship & Ministry Committee has not met since last quarter meeting. Details for a fall discussion series on Friends journals led by Chris Densmore of the Swarthmore Historical Library are in place and will be featured in the next Salem Quarter News.

On behalf of the Trustees-Cemetery Grounds Committee, Paul Somers (Greenwich) noted that the Port Elizabeth cemetery has had a recent interment in a plot purchased back in the 1950's. The cemetery has been laid down as has the Harmersville cemetery. No new spaces are allotted, but previously made commitments or purchases are honored. The committee is seeking to formulate a policy modeled after that of Woodstown, Salem and Greenwich.

A report from Friends School Mullica Hill was presented by Bill Carrigan (Mickleton). This school year draws to a close with graduation worship at 4:30 pm on 6/12 at the Mullica Hill meetinghouse and graduation at 7:00 pm on 6/14 at Friends School Mullica Hill. The summer camp program opens on 6/26. The basement of the Hanshi Deshbandhu Building is being renovated this summer. Enrollment for the next school year is on the same pace as last year. The school day is being lengthened by fifteen minutes next year by beginning the school day at 8:15 am.

Friends noted that Frank Lenik and Jack Mahon traveled to Washington where Woodstown Meeting was presented a certificate of appreciation from the State Department for our "continued support in the area of humanitarian demining and our sustained donation of Schonstedt magnetic

locators ... Through their sustained dedication to this cause, the Woodstown Monthly Meeting is helping farmers, schoolchildren, and other innocent civilians worldwide to walk the Earth in safety."

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has asked Woodstown to host a TAG-a-thon to raise funds for Annual Appeal. During the TAS-a-thon, Friends will be making contact to T: thank, A: ask, and G: give.

Mickleton Meeting reports that Solar City will give Mickleton Meeting \$200 for each person who installs solar on his or her home roof. The savings is about 1/3 of the electric bill. Three new members are in process.

Meeting was closed in worship.

Rebecca Shapiro, recording clerk

June 4, 2016

Report to Salem Quarterly Meeting

From the Salem Quarter Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House Committee

The Lower Alloways Creek Meetinghouse Committee participated in Salem County's Open House tour this year in an unusual way. Three simulated Quaker weddings of 20 minutes each took place at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. Three wedding certificates had been prepared for the receiving of signatures, and five framed certificates were on display in the west meeting room, two dating back to the 1700s. Rain did not dampen the spirits of either the wedding participants or the general public.

The most difficult aspect of our endeavor had been the search for a young Quaker couple willing to fill the rolls of bride and groom. We wound up with an engaged couple, volunteers from the Broad Street Players, who came down from Deptford. With very little coaching they took on the ways of Quaker dress, speech and demeanor and, as a bonus, they outwardly radiated their love and commitment.

A narrator opened the presentations by giving brief background information on pertinent Friends testimonies and marriage procedures, closing

it at rise of meeting with a question and answer period. The clerk of the wedding opened worship by explaining the uniqueness of what lay ahead and the opportunities available to everyone present. As a precaution, she had asked a few members of the Quarter to come with a message to share if needed. This was useful preparation as there was no vocal participation from the general public.

These three weddings were the drawing card to the LAC meetinghouse during this year's open house tour. Attendance at times other than the weddings was rather sparse. Our unique endeavor not only increased exposure to the building, it was a major form of Quaker outreach. The public seemed moved by their experience, a few even asked if the bride and groom were now actually married. Following the 11 o'clock wedding, attendance grew exponentially for the next two. At 1 o'clock the room was half full and by 3 o'clock we had a full house. This was due in part to same-day word of mouth, as noted outside where tour goers fresh from a wedding were texting and phoning to invite others to come to hear, see and feel what happens.

After the first wedding, which could have been called a flawless dress rehearsal, and after our apprehensions over the unknown had evaporated, we moved through the next two in what felt like a state of Grace, where all was rightly ordered. Spirit moved among us. Four fine messages were delivered in each, appropriately separated by rich silence where the only sounds from outside were the lushness of raindrops and bird song. And inside all was hushed, breathless, reverent.

I think we can say in all modesty that we pulled off something valuable, fully acknowledging that we did it with divine assistance.

Submitted by Mary Waddington

For the Salem Quarter Lower Alloways Creek Meeting House Committee

Salem Quarter Steering Committee Report

June 4, 2016

The large matters which have come before the Steering Committee since March are both in the area of communicating who and what we Quakers in Salem Quarter and beyond are and what we do.

1) The Salem Quarter web page is up and training has been done. Several Monthly Meetings have or have begun their own web-pages which can be accessed through the Quarter's page.

2) The Clerks Meeting in Newtown was attended by Jared Valdez and Gloria Horvay. They came back very enthusiastic about the discussion on "How to revitalize a shrinking meeting and get all the work done." Resource: Norval Reese (Private Quaker, Public Quaker) of Newtown Meeting.

<http://westernquarterquakers.org/norval-reece-private-quaker-public-quaker>

Next Quarterly Meeting will be on Sunday, September 11 at Mullica Hill. Worship at 9:45, Program at 11 -12. Brown bag lunch following, then business meeting.

December QM: Salem. Lucy Duncan (AFSC). Gloria will work with Lucy to develop a program and a description.

March QM: Woodstown

Possibilities: Norval Reese from Newtown Meeting. Or have him for a special gathering called by the Quarter much sooner than March, 2017.

After June Quarterly Meeting, there will not be a Salem Quarter News to publish the minutes. We'll have to publish them in the eNews letter, or a link to it on the Quarter web page.

Jared Valdez has been asked to become a member of Steering Committee. He is actually a contractor for Salem Quarter, so it makes sense for him to attend since part of our role is supervision of staff. Friends agreed we need the communications person here.

