

MIDCOAST FRIENDS MEETING FOR BUSINESS

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Eight Friends gathered in silent worship before Clerk Guy Marsden opened the session. The MINUTES of the September Business Meeting were approved.

SUE ROCKWOOD made a series of announcements in relation to her role with the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Committee. She will post two obituaries including one for Jack Banta who for years regularly cleaned the Meeting House. A woman who has previously led a reading and study group at the Meeting House plans to start a new one on Language and she invites Friends to participate. The local FOOD PANTRY is conducting its annual appeal. They also need another representative on their board. Diane Dicranian may accept this assignment. Sue expressed deep appreciation for everyone who contributed to making the Memorial Service for Carl Albright such a moving and successful occasion.

Sue also drew attention to an article in the current Friends Journal about affinity groups and the practice in Friends Meeting of Washington, D.C. where special worship services are held by their “Queer” attenders in the area. Sue wondered if queer attenders at Midcoast Meeting might be encouraged to form an affinity group and explore what types of activities at Midcoast they might find valuable, including a possible “queer meeting.”

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE has filled in the roster of volunteers to prepare hot drinks each Sunday for the social time after worship. Sally Tukey will take on the assignment for the fourth Sunday each month. The dining tables for the first Sunday in December will be spread with table cloths and other decorations for a full pot luck meal in addition to the usual soup.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE Friends are encouraged to consider taking part next summer in a book discussion group sponsored by the Bangor Theological Center. In the past this group has included widely diverse participants with varied faith backgrounds.

WABANAKI CONCERNS Jim Matlack reminded Friends that he and Andy Burt are involved in the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy—statewide network of Quaker activists who work on relevant Legislative issues and especially on tribal/state concerns. They recently attended a major Fundraising gathering of the tribes in Freeport. They also took part in a Fall zoom organizing meeting at which Maulian Dana Bryant was the main speaker. She is chairperson of the Wabanaki Alliance Board. Maulian reviewed the upcoming Legislative session noting bill of special concern to the tribes. She also emphasized the importance of VOTING NO on referendum Proposition ONE which would cut off many tribal people from being able to vote.

Jim described the pattern in recent years for a delegation of Quakers from FCMPP along with members of a counterpart Episcopalian group to make visits to the five tribal communities so as to listen and learn from the local leaders how best to be informed allies on their issues. He also spoke of a Quaker-backed Elder-in Residence Program which supports an elder to be present on the campus of the University of Maine in order to be an advisor to young Wabanaki students new to the university experience. Jim also mentioned the long-running AFSC Maine Indian Program which is moving into a new stage under the leadership of Maggie Dana, a Passamaquoddy.

Andy Burt spoke about her PROJECT WITH TRIBAL VETERANS in which she interviews Wabanaki veterans about their service in the U.S. military. These experiences are shared with Native youth (and with the general public) to build awareness and appreciation for the long legacy of Wabanaki engagement with every U.S. war back to the Revolutionary War. So many have served at great cost over the decades even though they could not vote at home until 1967.

A closing discussion arose focused on the upcoming New England Yearly Meeting CALLED MEETING ON GAZA. A special meeting at Midcoast was proposed for the following Sunday to consider how local Friends might respond to the ongoing crisis. It was decided to await a final statement from the NEYM gathering which will be reviewed by the MOPC oversight group who may then propose follow-up activities for local Friends.

James Matlack, Recording Clerk