

Abington Quarterly Meeting for Business

Held at Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Fifth Month 6th, 2018

Abington MM- 3: Byberry MM- 1: Foulkeways WG- 0: Gwynedd MM- 7:
Horsham MM- 2: Norristown MM- 3: Plymouth MM- 14: Pottstown WG- 1:
Richland MM – 1: Unami MM- 4: Upper Dublin MM-2

Friends approved the agenda.

Rebecca Cratin welcomed everyone to Plymouth.

Friends approved the minutes of Second Month.

Tom Armstrong was approved as AQ Treasurer. Friends minuted their appreciation of the work that Bob Rieff has done. Bob was approved as Assistant Treasurer. Mary Green was approved as the Norristown representative to the AQ Trustees. We minuted our appreciation of Jim Verno's service in this position.

Tom Armstrong provided a report about the Trustees' meeting on April 22 (attached). A 4% spending policy was approved for 2018-2019 (four percent of the average of quarterly returns for the last three years). The trustees saw a presentation by Jeff Perkins and Richard Kent of Friends Fiduciary. The Trustees decided to keep the funds as they are, not to invest in a new Friends Fiduciary index fund. Home and Care gave the Trustees a report and voiced concern about the high cost of medications. Home and Care will provide some recommendations for the next Trustees meeting. The Trustees are drafting a conflict of interest policy.

A question was asked about what percentage of the quarter's fund has shifted to the Green Fund. The trustees decided to keep the percentage the same this year because of the Green Fund's lower return. The Green Fund represents about 30% of the quarter's funds.

Friends accepted the report of the Trustees.

Nancy Gold reported about the Home and Care committee. Conversation followed about Foulkeways special priorities waiting list that AQ members of at least 3yr membership may ask to be put on. Our Quarter has credits that may be applied to entry fees for studio and one-bedroom units. This information and a history of the funds is included in the attached report. Friends accepted the report.

Karen Shanoski reported on JFC/MSFC. There are 31 students signed up so far. PYM has done some great promotion on its website. Five students are signed up for the Faith and Leadership Program. Youth Programs has submitted a grant for \$3,000 to AQMF. Friends minuted their approval of the grant request. Karen added a message of appreciation for the work that Bob Rieff did for the youth programs over the years.

Cheryl Zabinski reported on the Abington Quarterly Meeting Fund. The fund received \$32,900 in grant applications. The fund requests from the quarter that it receive an additional \$20,000 from principal to fully fund the grant requests. Several members asked questions about the focus of the fund and the amount of original and current principal. Concerns were raised about the amount of requests related to property expenses and plans going forward to encourage meetings to look more broadly for funds and develop their own capital campaigns. Friends approved the AQMF request for \$20,000 from principal.

Rich Rafferty from Fair Districts of PA made a presentation about redistricting reform. He is the coordinator for Montgomery County. Fair Districts is an outreach of the League of Women Voters. The majority and minority PA House leaders and whips and one person appointed by the state Supreme Court are the five people who determine our legislative districts. Fair Districts advocates legislative solutions based on what is working in six other states, moving to an independent citizens commission to redraw the map. Fair Districts is putting pressure on state senators now to approve a bill for the independent citizens commission. The bill needs to pass again in the next legislative session and then pass as a constitutional amendment. Rich urged Friends to call their state senators and representatives to move this legislation forward by July. The house and senate bills currently have 132 total sponsors. The senate bill is Senate Bill 22.

Phil Donnelly and Randy Quinby of Unami gave an update about the India Water Project in Ekta Parishad. They have built a well, water filtration units, a school, and a community bathroom, and they have installed solar lighting. There is a new

program called Go Rurban to help urban children gain experience in rural life.

Phil and Lynn Biddle told us about their efforts at Unami to spark Courageous Conversations. Lynn is Unami's representative to its ministerium. She presented to the ministerium the idea of having conversations across the political divide. They now have a seven-member committee and have worked for the past year to host three events including one by invitation and an open public meeting (28 people). They use a template of Krista Tippett's Civil Conversations Project to structure the guidelines for the conversation.

Friends gathered again at 12:30 after meeting for worship with Plymouth.

Tom Wells from Citizens Climate Lobby gave a presentation about climate change and showed an excerpt of the movie *Chasing Ice*, which shares the images of the Extreme Ice Survey. Tom mentioned a recent book, *Farewell to Ice*, by Peter Wadhams. He also explained CCL's carbon fee and dividend proposal. He suggested that the quarter consider endorsing the carbon fee and dividend proposal.

Delivery of the annual reports of AQ Worship and Ministry and the State of our Quarter will be postponed until the picnic during Eighth Month.

Friends approved the rental of a canopy for the picnic.

Mary Ellen McNish of Byberry announced that it was recently discovered that a Native American girl, Gertrude Spotted Tail, who was taken from her Sioux family, sent to the Carlisle School, and loaned out to do farmwork in the summers, is buried in their graveyard. There will be a ceremony to honor her and another Native American girl buried near her. The ceremony will include a relative of Gertrude and members of the Lenni Lenape, the tribe of the other girl buried. Friends approved the spirit of Byberry's leading.

Betsy Luckshides of Horsham reiterated support for the Worm Project that was highlighted at our last business meeting.

Susan Vorwerk of Upper Dublin thanked members for attending the Interfaith Walk for Peace and Justice.

The meeting ended with a moment of silent worship.

Websites of organizations lifted up during meeting:

<http://www.ektaparishad.com/>

<http://www.civilconversationsproject.org/>

<http://extremeicesurvey.org/>

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Menton
Diamond, AQ Clerk

Amelia

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF
ABINGTON QUARTERLY MEETING TRUSTEES

The Trustees met on April 22, 2018 at Foulkeways.

The Trustees approved continuing a 4% spending policy for the years 2018 and 2019.

The Trustees had a presentation by Jeff Perkins and Richard Kent from Friends Fiduciary. The presentation was to inform the Trustees how the funds are managed, their performance, and the shareholder advocacy that is being conducted on our behalf.

After the presenters left the Trustees discussed 3 Funds that could possibly be of interest to us. The Trustees agreed that the Index Fund was not the best place for our funds due to the need for income. Asset allocation between the two Friends Fiduciary Consolidated Fund and Green Fund will remain the same. In general income is sufficient for current purposes, but it was noted that the Spruance Fund's expenses were greater than its income (there was some income carried over from previous years).

We received a very interesting report from the Home and Care Committee. There was a discussion of the high cost of certain medications, and the Home and Care Committee will be reviewing the subject in their future meetings. The Trustees reviewed the assets of the various funds that the Home and Care Committee calls upon in their work.

A draft of a Conflict of Interest Policy was circulated. It will be considered after some revisions at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Taylor, President

Thomas Armstrong, Vice-President

AQM HOME AND CARE COMMITTEE CLERK'S

REPORT TO TRUSTEES

April 22, 2018

The Abington Quarterly Meeting Home and Care Committee represents all Meetings in the Quarter. We have seventeen members, including Alice M. Wetherill who remains a consulting member from Doylestown. We are grateful to all the Friends who have agreed to represent their meetings on Home and Care, as our daytime meeting schedule may not suit some. We meet four times a year in Jenkins Parlor at Foulkeways.

Minutes of Appreciation have been sent to Cynthia Evans, and Mildred and Clifford Gilliam. These Friends faithfully and competently supported Home and Care over many years and their influence continues to be reflected in our work. We are fortunate to have Dan Hazleton, Treasurer, and Robert Reiff, Assistant Treasurer, available to handle financial requests in a timely manner. Rebecca Cratin is our Administrator. Rebecca interfaces with Friends who have expressed needs. She follows up with the appropriate applications to the F. Palin Spruance, General and Tyson Enabling Funds, and considerable paperwork and memos. Bonnie Miller, as Assistant Clerk, is always available to step in where needed. The Executive Committee of Clerk, Co-Clerk and Administrator discuss applications and make decisions in confidence. The quarterly meetings are for updates of membership, discussion of general policies, and speakers or reviews of site visits of affordable housing.

The Home and Care Committee is able to help Friends by using the interest from invested endowments to the F. Palin Spruance and General Funds and the Enabling Fund. Again, our dealings are confidential. Monies from the Spruance and General Funds are to be repaid. Towards this end, the Administrator sends out annual reminder letters to fund recipients including the sum of funds granted to date, or acknowledging repayment. Copies of those letters are also sent to recipients' personal representatives: Power of Attorney, spokesperson or attorney. Twelve Friends are benefitting from the General Fund, and six from the Spruance Fund. Grants from the Enabling Fund are generally one time only and do

not need to be repaid.

Examples of the types of help the Home and Care Committee has been able to provide are: Entry Fee Swing Loan; medical equipment; emergency insurance premiums; costs of medications; and temporary housing. Requirements for providing and receiving assistance funds from the Quarter are: 1) three years membership in, and 2) service to meetings.

We have yet to grapple with how to handle costs for very expensive medical care for a serious or rare illness. This is an assistance matter that would have to be explored in the Quarter, as this degree of assistance is beyond the current guidelines.

In addition to helping Friends financially, the Home and Care Committee continues to explore affordable housing options for Friends.

Pamela Leland, CEO of the Hickman, met with us to provide information about this Quaker Personal Care Home of 67 licensed units in West Chester, PA. The Hickman was established 1891 and is located on a square block called Quaker Hill, home also to Monthly Meeting and a Friends School. All entities share in managing this Quaker Hill. Construction has been completed on a new building at the Hickman, to replace Scattergood House. It will increase capacity of the Hickman to approximately 140 units. And, finally, The Mary Taylor Home opened last fall for low to middle income independent people. There is already a long waiting list for these HUD units, which list is handled separately.

Our next affordable facility to explore is Montgomery Park in Norristown, PA. The Assistant Clerk will visit Montgomery Park and bring back information which we will share with you in the future. We know the rents are affordable and that applications are being taken now. We also are concerned about housing for adult dependent children. We plan to visit the Indian Creek Foundation in the future. Indian Creek provides for the needs of mentally challenged Adults.

The Home and Care Committee members reviewed the history of the funds at its most recent meeting. Our Quarter is the only endowed quarter in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We were reminded of the largesse of long ago Quakers such as Anna T. Jeanes, F. Palin Spruance and the Tysons.

Anna T. Jeanes contributed funds to establish the Hickman, to create

housing for elders needing an intermediate living facility west of Philadelphia. Anna T. Jeanes also left the initial endowment for the Quaker Home in Norristown, PA which opened in 1897. The Norristown Friends Home had to be closed because it was old and beyond repair. The land was sold and funds from the sale were given to Foulkeways to help build its Abington House, opened 1971. In exchange, Foulkeways was to reserve ten spots ad perpetuity for use by members of Abington Quarter. These are the Special Priorities you may have heard of. These Special Priorities can be used to move into Foulkeways earlier than would ordinarily be possible, or to be helped with entry fees. These ten Special Priority credits are determined by multiplying the cost of ten times a studio rate, and then that “pot” is reduced as it is used. These credits can only be used for members of the Quarter’s nine Monthly Meetings.

As Abington Quarter Friends sign up for Foulkeways, they should indicate to the Admissions/Marketing staff if they want to be considered for this preferential treatment. These same Friends should also have notified the Home and Care Committee Administrator, who is responsible for tracking the lists of Friends desiring early entry, as well as those needing credits to help with their entry fees.

The Abington Quarter Special Priorities are a source of continual scrutiny and amazement: The Foulkeways personnel have changed a number of times and this topic is confusing in itself because of the two aspects of time and/or money involved: waiting time and entry fee credits. A further complication is that not all Friends want to enter Foulkeways ASAP – the waiting time aspect -- and many do not favor studio/one bedroom units, for which credits may be applied. Two bedroom/cottage applicants are not eligible for a reduction of entry fee.

Why do I say amazement when referring to the Special Priority credits? Because using the AQM entry fee credits is a paper exchange. Foulkeways does not receive entry fees; rather our “pot” is reduced as used, and supplemented again with credits as the Friends who used them pass away. Foulkeways does not get revenue and the Quarter continually has the use of an entry fee credit “pot” of ten times the current studio entry fee. This would hold as long as Foulkeways is in existence.

We continue to meet with Brian Kersey, the Admissions Director at Foulkeways. He and his support staff maintain Foulkeways Priority List from

which we identify Friends for Special Priorities for early admission, and Special Priority Credits for reduction of entry fees. This is a work in progress.

Are there questions?

The Home and Care Committee intends to be as helpful as possible to Meeting members so we continue to find new ways to inform Friends of who we are and what help may be available. We speak at Monthly, Representative and Quarterly Meetings. We intend to be available on other occasions, to those who may wish to discuss their needs in confidence. Friends, please take time to identify your Home and Care representatives. The Home and Care Committee provides a unique service to Friends in need in the Quarter. You may have needs in the future, as well as other Friends in your meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy B. Gold, Clerk

April 17, 2018