

Abington Quarterly Meeting for Business

Held at Horsham Monthly Meeting

Tenth Month 7th, 2018

Abington – 4: Byberry – 0: Gwynedd/Foulkeways- 10: Horsham – 16: Norristown – 0: Plymouth – 8:
Richland – 0: Unami – 3: Upper Dublin – 1 : Children - 9

Betsy Lukshides welcomed Friends to Horsham.

Friends approved the agenda and the minutes from Eighth Month.

Bob Taylor is stepping down as president of Trustees. Tom Armstrong has volunteered to serve as president of Trustees. Tom was approved. Russ Bishop has offered to serve as vice-president. Friends approved.

Tom Armstrong presented the annual report of Trustees (attached). Dan Hazelton was approved for next year as Treasurer, Bob Rieff as assistant treasurer, and Karen Russell as secretary. The Trustees received their annual audit and were evaluated as “unqualified,” which means the audit passed. During the last Trustees meeting, Helen File was fondly remembered. The Trustees are working on by-laws and a conflict-of-interest policy.

Tom then presented the Abington Quarter treasurer’s report (attached). He mentioned that the Trustees discussed whether it would be a conflict of interest for him to serve as both quarter treasurer and president of Trustees. They determined that there was not a conflict of interest, but he invited members of the quarter to discuss the matter with him if they have concerns.

Dan Hazelton presented the treasurer’s report for the Trustees. The total value of funds is over \$9 million. There was a \$207,000 write-off of funds given to Home and Care to a person at Foulkeways. When that person died, with a note of intent to repay, the family insisted that there were no funds left in the estate. Dan mentioned that the Trustees continue to honor the quarter’s request to invest in the Friends Fiduciary Green Fund. A question was asked about whether the Green Fund has a lower yield than the normal Friends Fiduciary funds. The answer was that it yields one percent less than the equity funds.

Bonnie Miller, the new clerk of Home and Care, gave the report for Home and Care (attached). Al Hubbs will serve as new assistant clerk. Home and Care has been repaid a loan of \$289,700 with an additional \$500 in gratitude to Trustees for giving extended time to repay the loan. Home and Care reflected on the support they received from Helen File. The committee is almost finished with a new brochure. The committee struggles with the fact that there is insufficient housing for the intellectually challenged adult children of seniors who need to move into retirement facilities. The executive committee recognizes the excellent work of Rebecca Cratin and recommends an hourly pay increase for Rebecca and a review of the federal gas mileage reimbursement. We were made aware of the original letter handwritten by Anna T.

Jeanes in 1903 that endowed the Norristown Home with \$25000 for care of the aged and infirm. Serving as the beginning of funds for the Home & Care committee, other endowments have followed.

The quarter minuted their appreciation for the work that Nancy Gold did as clerk of Home and Care for the past six years.

The clerk read a minute of appreciation for Helen File (attached). Her memorial will be this Saturday at 10am, at Byberry Meeting.

Rebecca Cratin mentioned the fall newsletter of the quarter. It contains a nice article from *The Northeast Times* about Helen File and the history of Byberry Meeting.

Ruth Peterson mentioned the small size of Byberry, and Amelia said that Byberry could use help with office work. Byberry is creating a specific description of help needed.

Walt Singer, of Abington, presented about the work of FCNL and shared specifically about the work of Advocacy Teams. FCNL has expanded its full-time staff in the past two years from 45 to 60 people and has three full-time people working to establish volunteer advocacy teams across the country who are trained to lobby around one issue. A group at Abington went through the six-week training and has met several times with staff in Senator Casey's office and Brendan Boyles' office. They are working to set up a conference call with Senator Toomey. Dan Turner will post Walt's slide presentation on our website.

Ron Inskeep presented a minute of appreciation to recognize the 75th anniversary of FCNL (attached). Members endorsed the minute and will forward it to Quaker Life Council at PYM.

The meeting adjourned to join meeting for worship with Horsham.

At the reconvening of meeting, Friends considered revisions to the minute in support of Benjamin Lay that was approved by the quarter last year. Members of PYM suggested that "slave-owners" be replaced by "enslavers," and that there be a sentence stating, "Abington Monthly Meeting asks forgiveness" for its action against Benjamin Lay. Loretta Fox, who organized the original minute, sought advice from two outside experts on slavery, Benjamin Lay, and local history(attached). After consideration of these outside opinions and the suggestions of PYM, Abington Monthly Meeting decided to approve the original minute without changes. The quarter endorsed Abington's decision to maintain the original minute. This endorsement will be forwarded to Quaker Life Council.

Friends enjoyed a slide presentation about the 41st Junior Friends Conference and Middle School Friends Conference. (Karen's summary attached)

The meeting closed with a moment of worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Menton

Clerk,

Amelia Diamond