



THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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May, 2024 Newsletter

“Those who are brought to a pure still waiting upon God in the spirit, are come nearer to the Lord than words are: for God is a spirit, and in the spirit he is worshiped...”

Alexander Parker 1660 Faith and Practice p.123

Third Haven Friends Meeting **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** **14h Day Fourth Month 2024**

Opening silent worship: Clerk Molly Brian opened with silent worship at 11:30 a.m.

Attending: (hybrid) Peter Belitsos, Molly Brian, Mia Brown-Echerd, Lorraine Claggett, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Stephanie French, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Sandra Herbert, Kristina Herold, Larissa Kitenko, Bill Lane Jr., Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Marian Murphy, Terry-Thomas Primer, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Nancy Stanford, Sam Steffens, Paige Tilghman, Ben Tilghman, John Turner, Joan Wetmore, Jonathan Williams, Winslow Womack

Comments on Fourth Query “Nurturing Our Community”

There are many opportunities to work with Quakers, which is different from being part of the community and working within it.

Approval of Minutes from 3/10/24- Approved

From the Clerk’s Desk- *Molly Brian*

The welcoming committee met with Beverley Martin. Following her accident Amy Kimball’s welcome has been postponed until her return.



Treasurer’s Report – Ben Tilghman

Donations and expenses tracking as expected. Budget activities coming soon. Committees should request info from the treasure and submit their budget to him in the next 2 weeks.



Communications Annual Report- Dee Rein Accepted

The communications committee is a task-oriented group. Our goal is to spread information among the Third Haven community and the geographical community.

Hence, we accomplish the following tasks:

Website -Tania “T” Harrison webmaster, Line by Line Web Design, professional web services

Gmail - John Hawkinson, Dee Rein

Directory and graphic design-John Hawkinson, Marie Leonard, Tania Harrison on the website
Special graphic design projects and publicity materials- Marie Leonard, Leonardworks Design, professional graphic design services

Photography-Marian Murphy and volunteers from the Meeting

Landline phone answering machine-Kathryn Pettus

Announcements Monday and Friday and monthly newsletter production- Dee Rein

Newsletter snail mailing and placement in meeting house or common room-Kathryn Pettus

Tech support-Zoom for Meetings for Worship, Business and special events- John Turner, Dee Rein, Stephanie French, Mary Yancey

These efforts help our Meeting members stay connected and informed.

Comments: Third Haven should know that less than half of Meetings have Zoom weekly as we do. Other monthly meeting websites note how excellent our website is. This is good to have available to ourselves and the wider community. People need to hear how to stand to speak so people on Zoom can hear. Direction is appreciated. The multiple random components of Zoom complicate making the technology work well for all. Committee chairs are encouraged to review their website pages and update them.

Planning Committee update: Plan for the renovations of the 2nd floor of the brick meetinghouse (BMH) for First Day School (FDS) and other uses, approval requested - Susan

Claggett Approved



Introduction:

The renovation suggestions consider the ideas that developed as a result of a parental survey. The changes benefit the entire Meeting community’s use of the building.

Query for 2nd floor renovations-

“What vision do you see for this space (2nd floor BMH) to promote Quaker values, history and testimonies to our youth, families, Quaker family and the wider community?”

Renovation of the 2nd Floor of the Brick Meetinghouse for First Day School and Other Uses

Planning Committee

Revised & approved, 3.20.24

Introduction

- Appreciation of First Day School (FDS) committee, teachers, curriculum, and experience
- Various factors contribute to variable FDS attendance.

- 2nd floor BMH space highly valued by and for FDS. Space is for the Meeting, not only FDS.
- Emphasis on nature and outdoor activities.
- Curriculum and materials valued generally, especially for Testimonies, “Quaker values,” and nature.
- Orientation: back = west; south side; front = east, north side.

Storage

- Abundant storage for all FDS materials, with consistent and attractive storage units, cubby holes, etc.
- Side benches, with under bench storage
- Storage for curriculum materials
- Bookshelves

Bathroom

- Renovate with new toilet and sink for unisex use. Wainscoting (?)
- Replace floor.
- Add storage.
- Install sink in main room for arts and crafts clean-up.

Walls

- No need to reconfigure rooms and move walls.
- Paint walls, colors TBD.
- Retain white board and replace cork board.
- Maps, artwork and decorations TBD

Floor

- Retain existing carpet for now.
- Area rugs may be acquired or donated.

North room

- Now rented and used by Jonathan Williams.
- Comfortable chairs for reading, reflection, older FDS kids.

West room

- Think about the back stairway as the principal entry to BMH 2nd floor and plan west room accordingly. West room most used by FDS.
- New external stairway door should have glass to let in more light.

Office (northeast east)

- Clean out the furniture, equipment and other items that will not be used for FDS office or other uses.
- This will be an office for FDS, clerks and committees as appropriate.
- Acquire and install desk, chairs, filing cabinets, storage, shelves and other necessary office furniture and furnishings.

Furniture and furnishings

- Update or relace attractive and functional furniture and furnishings for FDS, including tables and chairs for FDS and other meetings, e.g. chairs of different sizes.

Lighting and WiFi

- Replace and improve 2nd floor lighting.
- Ensure adequate WiFi signal strength on the 2nd floor.

Other uses

1st floor bathroom

- Renovate with new toilet and sink for unisex use. Wainscoting (?)
- Replace floor.
- Add storage.

Front stairway

- Replace carpeting.
- Repair newel post if needed.

1st floor room on the right at entry

- Welcoming space, not at office, not a dumping space.
- Storage for *Faith and Practice*, brochures and public information, for restocking rack in entry.
- Storage for food donation container.
- 2-3 chairs

Comments: All comments applied to the Brick Meeting House. The downstairs bathroom has had a sink replaced recently. The above ideas look good and useful. The WiFi currently has good signal upstairs. The northeast corner room will be an office space for the entire Meeting. All trade work should be priced into the general contract for the stairs and ramp. Current contract efforts address the stairs and ramp only. The little room off the lobby has had a variety of uses. A member volunteered to consult on the bathroom renovation. Contractor estimates may take time.

Proposed minute on the Israel-Gaza war, discussion with approval requested - *Tom Corl*

A variety of sources were consulted to create this minute.

Introduction

The Religious Society of Friends has been dedicated to its Peace Testimony since its founding in the 17th Century. As Quakers, we believe in the sacred worth of each person and oppose violence in all its forms. In 1650, George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, wrote:

Friends are called to live “in the virtue of that life and power that *takes away the occasion of all wars.*”

We grieve for the loss of each life, and with those in Israel and Palestine who are losing loved ones. We pray with those waiting for the return of loved ones and those living under siege and bombardment. Along with many other faith traditions, we feel a religious obligation to feed the hungry, care for the sick and wounded, and protect the most vulnerable from violence.

Third Haven Friends Meeting, at 405 South Washington Street, in Easton, Maryland 21601, gathered for a Monthly Meeting for Business on 4.14.24 and, after long discussion and careful discernment, the Meeting achieved clearness and unity, in the manner of Friends, and approved on the following minute.

Proposed Minute

We join many millions across the world to call for:

- Ceasefire: An immediate ceasefire and negotiations to create the conditions for a lasting peace. The US must collaborate with other members of the United Nations and its Security Council to call for the implementation of an immediate ceasefire. The Biden Administration and US Congress must call for an immediate ceasefire.
- Humanitarian aid: Immediate and effective action and ensure security for needed humanitarian aid to the displaced and suffering people of Gaza. Protection of civilians in Gaza, lift all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale.
- Bombing: An end to the catastrophic bombing and missile attacks on civilians in Gaza, using US-supplied aircraft, bombs, missiles, and other armaments.
- Hostages and detainees: Immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, ensuring humanitarian access to address their medical and other humanitarian needs. Ensuring full compliance with the obligations under International Humanitarian Law, for all persons detained in the Israeli-Gaza conflict.
- Wider war: Though communications and negotiations among regional states, parties, and non-state actors, seeking to reduce the risks of wider war in the region.
- Geneva Conventions: All parties are urged to comply with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law, especially attacks against civilians and civilian objects, violence and hostilities against civilians and acts of terrorism. We urge the combatants and the entire international community to respect the 4th Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in War.
- Arms to Israel: The US should not supply arms to Israel until an enduring cease fire is achieved.
- Sacred Sites: Preserve, protect and provide access to sacred sites, structures, and places in Jerusalem and Israel for Jews, Muslims and Christians.
- 2-state solution: Encourage a long-term solution, ensuring the safety and security of Israelis and Palestinians, in an equitable 2-state solution. The Security Council and the US Government should support current efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United States.

Comments: Fourth bullet point: hostages and detainees. Sources have reported that there are no more living hostages by Hamas. Arms to Israel: Recent Iran attack affects this as part of a worldwide system. Two State solution should include monitor. Is this something contributing to the reseeded of continued war? Are we choosing language that takes away the occasion for all war? To whom is the minute addressed? We are a religious, moral organization and are not qualified to make political, public policy statements.

A member presented historical background to this conflict, its historical changes and proposed revisions:

- **Hostages: Hamas should immediately release all hostages it took from Israel on October 7, 2023. In addition, there must be** full compliance with the obligations under International Humanitarian Law, for all persons **held hostage or** detained in the Israeli-Gaza conflict.
- Arms to Israel: The US should not supply **offensive** arms to Israel until an enduring cease fire is achieved.
- Sacred Sites: Preserve, protect and provide access to sacred sites, structures, and places in Jerusalem and Israel for Jews, Muslims and Christians. **Among these are the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and Al-Aqsa Mosque.**

There was **no unity** at this time. A threshing session was suggested. A member may rewrite for next meeting for business.

Annual Report Facilities Use Committee- *Larissa Kitenko*

<u>TYPES OF USAGE 2023</u>	<u>EST NUMBER TIMES ON CALENDAR</u>	<u>DONATION (per Treasurer)</u>
TYPE 1 Meetings		NONE
Third Haven Committees & Functions; Other Quaker Mtgs		
A Course of Love	7	
A Course in Miracles	43	
Aging as Friends (COMM)	2	
All Clerks	0	
Architect/Charette/Morgan State	0	
Blue Christmas	0	
Bulb planting	0	
Bridal Shower	0	
Campaign Comm	12	
Caregiver Support	0	
Christmas Potluck Lunch, Carols	1	
Clean-up Day	2	
Clearness Comm	0	
Co-Clerk	1	
Coffee w/Susan	0	
Communications Comm	1	
Composting	2	
CR Cleaning	2	
Dream Group	24	
Facilities Comm	1	
Faithful Hands	1	
Food Coop Mtg	0	
Friends Peace Team	1	
Fundraising	2	
Gospel Reading	5	
Green Tree Planning)	4	
Happier Hour	49	
Holiday Art Sale Planning	1	
HVAC Inspection	1	
Internment	0	
Interfaith Partnership Chesapeake	1	
Intro to Quaker Mtg	14	
Journal Group	51	
Journal Group #2	10	
Light Meditation	0	
Library Detention Ctr	0	
Luncheon for Friend	1	
Meeting for Business	10	
Meeting for Worship	52	
Mtg for Worship (Wed)	52	
Mtg of "Six"	0	
Memorial Serv Rehearsal	0	
Native Plant Swap	1	
New Members & Attenders' Luncheon	1	
Nominating Comm	0	
Outreach Comm	8	
Pastoral Care Comm	10	
Planning Comm	14	

Planning & Finance	0	
Pocomoke Mtg	1	
Potluck & Movie	2	
Property & Grounds Comm	8	
Potluck w/PYM	1	
Quaker Voice	1	
Scholarship Comm	1	
Spiritual Journey	1	
Testimony & Concerns	10	
T & C Luncheon	0	
TIS Meal Prep	10	
Treasurer	0	
Trust Circle Training	0	
Trustees' Meeting	0	
Worship & Ministry Comm	5	
Worship Sharing	0	
SUBTOTAL		N/A
First Day School		
First Day FDS	10	
Moving Up Day	1	
Brunch	1	
Christmas	1	
Bonfire Event	0	
Summer Camp	8	Tuition (per Treasurer)
Family Fun	1	
SUB TOTAL	22	
TYPE 2 Meetings		DONATION
Retreat – Blair Hope	1	40
Testing – Blair Hope	1	40
Garden Club	1	150
Holiday Art Sale	1	Tuition per Treasurer
Improv Easton Class	50	1512
League of Women Voters	1	25
Mid-Shore Mediation	0	0
St. Peter & Paul Students	1	0
Shore Lit Poetry	1	100
SUB TOTAL		1867 (est)
TYPE 3 Meetings		DONATION
Bus Tours (Advocacy Build)	1	250
BMH 2nd Floor rent	5	3100
SUB TOTAL	6	3350(est)
TYPE 4 Meetings		DONATION
Memorials Gieske A. Rudge	2	400
Wedding Katie Claggett	1	
SUB TOTAL	2	400
2023 TOTAL		\$5617 est)
2022 TOTAL	524	\$3363
2021 TOTAL	580	\$1565
2020 TOTAL	291	\$170
2019 TOTAL	368	\$4734
2018 TOTAL	348	\$5303
2017 TOTAL	330	\$2517
2016 TOTAL	-----	\$1544
2015 TOTAL	-----	\$1596
2014 TOTAL	-----	\$1721



CONSIDERATIONS:

1 – Third Haven Meetings are being held in-person, hybrid format, or via Zoom.

2 - Scheduling on the Paper Calendar/Syncing with On-Line Calendar

Members are notifying Facilities Committee with plans for meeting times, Weddings, or Memorials.

This ensures that each Committee has reserved space and/or on-line time.

Non-members leave a voice message for facilities' use on our answering machine or contact the web administrator.

All such requests are forwarded to Facilities Committee.

3 - Appropriateness of facility donations

The current system of categorizing meeting/event types had been working well and should be continued. This is listed on the webpage.

4- Donations

Donations have been forwarded by Facilities Comm/Friendly Presence to our Treasurer along with the event, date.

Continue with this.

5 – Recommendations from the Risk Control Consultant from Guide One Insurance to the Trustees (Sept 2022)

P & G Comm and Facilities Comm discussed these Safety Issues that applied to use of our buildings and property.

These recommendations have been included in the agreement document that prospective users of our property sign, viz., the need for a Certificate of Insurance or a signed document that holds "Third Haven Harmless".

Generally, Common Room usage for meetings in descending order:

Wednesdays (busiest)

Thursdays

Fridays

Sundays (FDS, Hospitality)

Saturdays (occasional meetings)

Mondays (fewer occasional meetings)

Tuesdays (no meetings currently scheduled)

The Facilities Use Policy may be found in full on our thirdhaven.org website.

Comments: The income from Facilities Use represents 7% of the Meeting's income, which is admirable.

Testimonies & Concerns Committee Update -Paige Tilghman

Everyone is encouraged to make donations to the 6 areas recommended by the committee as well as loose change to the American Friends Service Committee aid to Palestinians.

Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake advocates for protection of the Chesapeake Bay with collaboration by various faith groups. Jonathan Williams and Mary Yancey have started Talbot Green Hands chapter to this end. Our focus has been on invasive plants. The Presbyterian church is bringing back a community garden with composting. The Unitarians have started a group. The Talbot Green Hands chapter will be under the auspices of the Testimonies and Concerns Committee.

New Business

The tree survey continues and participants are welcome from 9 a.m.-12 noon May 10th.

Closing Silent Worship 12:36 p.m.

D. Rein, Recording Clerk

First Day School Parent Survey

In order to adapt First Day School to the needs of our families, the committee asked family parents to complete the following survey. The compiled results led to the recommendations of the planning committee for the second floor of the Brick Meeting House. See the survey below.

First Day School 2024 Survey

Thank you for taking time to share insights about how your family engages with our community. As you complete these questions, feel encouraged to check in with your child(ren) about what brings them joy, or gives them pause. Our FDS committee greatly appreciates your feedback! Thank you for sharing your truths from the heart!

What initially drew you and your family to Quaker Meeting? What is most exciting to you and your child about coming to Quaker Meeting?

What barriers keep you from attending traditional worship and First Day School on Sundays at 10 am? Please be specific if possible.

Is there another time during the week that would work better for your family to gather in Spirit all together? Would your family consider weekend retreats and/or evening programming?

Given upstairs improvements coming this year, we have an opportunity to craft our space to maximize Quakers values and deep learning. Considering the FDS upstairs space specifically, what is most important to you and your family (please check all that apply)?

Color and Playful Energy

Updated Furniture

Separate Classrooms for Different Age Groups

Storage/Bookshelves/Shelves

Interesting Literature and Resources

Interactive Classroom Materials

How we welcome other community members

Other (write-in response)

Given upstairs improvements coming this year, we have an opportunity to craft our space to maximize Quakers values and deep learning. What type of children programming most interests you and your child(ren)? (Please select your top 3-4 options).

Biblical Stories and Godly Play Stories

Quaker History and Historical Figures in Quakerism

Faith & Play (emphasizes quaker values through story-telling)

Reading Books

Music

Movement (Yoga, Physical Activity)
Silence and Quiet Time Together
Learning in and about nature
Quaker Testimonies (SPICES- Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, and Stewardship)
Reflection and Worship Sharing
Learning about Current World Events w/ Discussion and Reflection
Engaging in Intergenerational Activities with the entire meeting
Other (write-in response)

Is there anything else you would like to share to the First Day School Committee as we discern our programming, spaces, and engagement with families and children?

Talbot Green Hands Compost Opportunity

We will soon be able to take food scraps and compost them at the Presbyterian Community Garden site (photo attached). A 5 gallon container for them will be available just outside the kitchen door on Sundays. The small container we now use will be available to hospitality volunteers. We will post the guidelines (see attached) for using the Talbot Green Hands composting system in the kitchen. Individuals and families who wish to contribute their scraps should see me to go over the guidelines. We expect to begin taking scraps on 4/28.

Mary Yancey, Amy Kimball and I are founding members of the Third Haven branch of the Talbot Green Hands (logo attached) chapter of the 4 state Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake. UUFE just joined Green Hands on Earth Day and we expect other faith groups in the county to join over time. Zero food waste is one of our projects. Another is invasive species removal. Our larger purpose is to give Talbot Co. folks who hold the earth and its peoples sacred to be able to have a direct and organized impact on our part of the Shore.

Peace,

Jonathan Williams.



To Add Scraps for Composting:

1. Follow Guidelines (Above) – Most Important!
2. Open 5 gallon bucket and put in your **green food scraps** (see acceptable types, above). Close bucket securely
3. Small quantities of **brown** items can accepted but for large quantities check with a

3 H 'Green Hand'



Thanks!



Spring Outing- William Penn's Pennsbury Manor



Join the Friends Historical Association in celebrating the 400th anniversary of George Fox's birth with a focus on his contemporary, arguably the second most important leader in the early Quaker movement: William Penn. Events include an in-person **tour of Pennsbury Manor on May 19** and a **virtual lecture by J. William Frost on May 29**.

[See details and register \(required\) →](#)

<https://www.quakerhistory.org/>