



# THIRD HAVEN FRIENDS MEETING

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*June, 2023 Newsletter*

“I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars.”

*George Fox*

## Third Haven Friends Meeting

### Meeting for Business

### 5<sup>th</sup> Month, 14<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Attending:** Mia Brown-Echerd, Susan Claggett, Lorraine Claggett, Tom Corl, Catherine Cripps, Kristina Herold, Marsie Hawkinson, John Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Beth Mufson, Clay Owens, Terry-Thomas Primer, Cynthia Quast, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Bill Schauer, John Schreiner, Priscilla Sener, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, Nancy Stanford, Ben Tilghman, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Joan Wetmore, Heidi Wetzel, Jonathan Williams, Mary Yancey, Harvey Zendt

**Opening silent worship** led by Clerk Dee Rein began at 11:40 a.m.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Query was read aloud.

**Approval of minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> month 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for business:** APPROVED

**Budget & Finance Committee:** presentation of initial proposed budget for FY 2023 - 24 – *Bill Lane and Ben Tilghman* (report spreadsheet may be seen on our website)

With 83% of the fiscal year behind us, income is only at 76%, or roughly \$5,000 under budget. Additionally, expenses are at 88%, or roughly \$4,000 over budget. It almost goes without saying that this is not a sustainable trend. It is important to note, however, that the overage in expenses is driven largely by one substantial expenditure in Property and Grounds of slightly over \$5,000 for driveway maintenance. With the heating season behind us, while we still project overall expenses in excess of budget it will considerably less than the current \$4,000 overage.

Income is another matter. A large proportion of the shortfall is in donations from attenders, which are at 65% of budget. Members donations are higher at 73% of budget, Overall, we are projecting no surplus, and actually are looking at a shortfall of \$4,000 for FY22-23's operating budget.

The FY 23-24 projected budget is currently projecting a deficit of \$9,500. As mentioned, budgeting is an iterative process, and as of the time of this report, we still had yet to hear from some of the Clerks regarding their committees' planned expenses. We still have time to rework the budget, but will have to make some hard decisions regarding our projected expenditures for next year if we cannot assure ourselves of adequate income.

**Planning Committee:** presentation and discussion of the proposed Master Plan – *Tom Corl*  
The committee will have its own budget in the coming year rather than using monies drawn from the general budget.

- Slides: The testimonies were presented as undergirding the architects' plan. Then the site and concept slides were shown. The selected concept called the Lawn was shown. This led to the Master Plan slide, its details shown on subsequent slides. Diagrams were also handed out for individual inspection. Slides illustrating vegetation, vehicular routing, walkways, tree removal, elevation and other visualizations, and ideas for phasing and priorities were shown. Additional options for floor plans were shown. No ideas are fixed; they are representative possibilities.

- Items discussed: parking spots and capacity; concerns about expenditure of money; perceived needs underlying the concept of planning in general such as enlarged and updated spaces; possible restraints on changes to historic structures; geothermal and solar energy possibilities; concerns about breaking through the brick wall to access Trippe Avenue; appreciation for the planners and the process, particularly regarding safety and accessibility; public use of the property; and thoughts regarding priorities agreed to by the Meeting. The spirit of and gratitude for the property, particularly as a place for children and community, was expressed. The storage shed was presented as an obstacle to visualizing the plan; there was support in favor of moving it imminently. Growth of the Meeting and ongoing expenses were themes of concern.

Acknowledging concerns regarding growth of the Meeting, financial issues and specific aspects of the Plan to be decided later, the REPORT was ACCEPTED.

### **Trustees' annual report – *Priscilla Sener***

Seventy-five years ago, the members of our meeting incorporated a new entity called The Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends, Incorporated. Our monthly meeting subsequently deeded the real property of Third Haven to the new nonprofit corporation in November, 1949. One factor that influenced their decision was the possibility that the monthly meeting might have to be "laid down," in which case our meetinghouses and burial grounds would be transferred to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Third Haven members considered local ownership and stewardship essential to the continued survival of these historically significant treasures.

Funding for the Trustees has come from donations, legacy gifts and from the growth of investments which could be characterized as an endowment. The Trustees support capital projects, large and small. In the 1980's, construction of the Common Room was partially funded by the Trustees, and in the 1990's a major restoration of the Old Meeting House was supported by nearly \$450,000 of Trustee Funds.

Since 2021, under the leadership of Bill Lane, the Trustees have been working on another major round of repairs necessitated by the chronic issues of rising damp. Architectural Historian Carl Lounsbury surveyed Friends' records and reports that the need for moisture mitigation has recurred on average every thirty years beginning in 1698. Technologies improve. The current round is aided by laser scans, dendrochronology, and continuous digital moisture readings. To date, the trustees have spent \$88,000 on the project. An additional \$142,000 is needed to complete the work. We have received contingent approval from the Maryland Historical Trust easement committee and we project completion in 9-12 months.

Current Trustees are Larny Claggett, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Allan Mielke, Dee Rein, and Priscilla Sener. We continue to mourn the loss of past president Adrienne Rudge. We are guided by her clear and kindhearted ability to get to the heart of matters. Quoting from Adrienne's 2022 report to Meeting for Business:

*"Urge all members and attenders to support the preservation work of the Trustees of Third Haven Monthly Meeting by making an outright gift or by designating a legacy gift in their estate plans."*

This report is given for the information of the Meeting each year and requires no action.

-Presented was a letter from Carl Lounsbury from Colonial Williamsburg highlighting the historical and architectural significance of Third Haven and its property. This letter was written in support of a grant request and will be published at a later date. In nine months to a year the work on the Old Meetinghouse will be finished.

REPORT ACCEPTED.

**New business** - none

**Closing silent worship** 1:20 p.m.

Nancy Robbins

Recording Clerk

## **Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business The Role of Those Present**

Arthur M. Larrabee 6/25/2011

The role of those present is to:

1. Give thought to the meeting ahead of time. If an agenda and supporting materials are available in advance, give attention to them. Come prepared, mentally and spiritually, to do the business of the community in a spirit of worship.
2. Be present in a spirit of worship.
3. Support the expectations of the group for good order which may include:
  - (a.) Starting and ending meetings on time
  - (b.) not asking to speak more than is your proportionate share, taking into consideration the nature of the meeting, the matter at hand, your role, and the number of people present.
  - (c.) waiting to be recognized.

4. Speak your truth but then release it to the meeting. The act of letting go is as important as what you say.
5. Listen empathetically to others with the inner ear as well as with the outer ear; ask yourself, “What is really being said?”
6. Hold in the Light those people and ideas with whom you seem to be in disagreement. Consider adopting an attitude of curiosity rather than an attitude of judgement.
7. Challenge yourself to trust the Light that is given to others, being open to new truth, revelation and insight; be teachable.
8. Refrain from repeating what has already been said.
9. Hold the clerk and recording clerk in the Light.
10. Help the meeting to move forward; be present with clerking consciousness.
11. Support the decisions of the meeting.
12. Practice the spiritual discipline of patience.

The role of those not present is to show up next time.



### **Katie Claggett and Adolfo (A.J.)**

**Rojas Olivares' wedding** was a happy success. Even the weather cooperated. If you wish to see materials and the video from this event, Use the link below. Highlight and right click, then choose open hyperlink to follow wedding link.

[Wedding Link](#)

## Friends Community School Visit

On May 13<sup>th</sup> Friends Community School from College Park, Maryland brought a contingent of 30 eight grade students to visit Third Haven on their way to Rehobeth. Students were excited to take this special pre-graduation trip, which has traditionally included a visit to some site related to the Religious Society of Friends, in this cast Third Haven Friends Meeting. Students and their four teachers heard about Quaker history, the history of the Old Meeting House, and current activities of Third Haven Meeting presented by Dee Rein, Priscilla Sener and Tom Corl. Following a Meeting for Worship students enjoyed a picnic lunch and exploration of the grounds.



## Quakers Help Multicultural Festival



## Doreen, Mary and Kristina



**Moving Up Day** First Day School celebrated the end of the First Day School year with Moving Up Day on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Organized by co-clerks Susan Claggett and Sarah Hilderbrand and parents of First Day School children, at the rise of Meeting, we listened to a letter of thanks from Atticus Leibman and heard from each child. The children shared the grades they were moving up to as well as their anticipation of varied fun activities this Summer. Marsie Hawkinson read Atticus' letter thanking the meeting for scholarship and personal support over his education journey. He has just graduated from the University of Maryland and is returning to pursue a master's degree in finance. A festive picnic followed with a Quaker dogs cart, thanks to Drew Gundlach, and lots of other delicious pot luck offerings.



Susan shares FDS book All the Colors of the Earth

Dear Third Haven,

Thank you so much for your immense support. These last three years at the University of Maryland have been absolutely incredible, and your support has helped significantly in allowing me to pursue the many amazing opportunities available at UMD.

Last week, I graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a Bachelor's degree in Finance. Thanks to college credits obtained in high school, summer and winter classes, and several busy semesters, I was able to complete my degree in three years. While I learned a ton in my classes, I also got as involved as possible in extracurriculars. During undergrad, I completed three case competitions in investment banking, consulting, and venture capital. Additionally, my team placed 1st in the venture capital competition, despite competing against teams from across the country. I also got involved in two different investment funds, the second of which manages \$1.5 million of the UMD Business School's endowment. Lastly, I have completed two different investment banking summer internships and I just moved to New York City to complete a third. Next week, I will begin my summer internship as an Investment Banking Summer Intern at TD Bank in New York City.

However, I am not finished with my education just yet. After my internship ends in August, I will be moving back to Maryland and will return to UMD. Over the 2023-2024 school year, I intend to complete a Master's degree in Finance. If all goes according to plan I will graduate in May 2024, having completed both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in four years total.

I have been so incredibly fortunate in being able to attend the University of Maryland and have access to the many opportunities it has provided for me. I have been trying to make the absolute most of my last three years and they have been truly transformative for me. I am so grateful and cannot thank you all at Third Haven enough for your support. It has helped immensely in allowing me to pursue these incredible opportunities.

Thank you so much for your unrelenting support.

Sincerely,

Atticus Leibman