



Third Haven Friends Meeting

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NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Is the still small voice really still or small?
It is still small and quiet but worth straining to hear,
And once heard does not seem so small.
It is like a candle hidden from the wind, providing light and warmth.
And it is still: steady in the night.
Though its light seems dim, still it is a mark to be guided by.
Where the lights are few it stands out in the darkness.
As a small drip may cut a canyon in geologic time,
The still small voice can inspire greatness in our lives.
It is still still and still small yet mighty all the same.

Jonathan Slocum

Third Haven Friends Meeting Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Eleventh Day, Tenth Month 2020

Opening Silent Worship Molly Brian, Clerk of the Meeting, gathered together the meeting for worship with attention to business at 11:20 a.m. with a brief period of silence.

Attending: 34 attended: Mark Beck, Gwen Beegle, Molly Burgoyne Brian, Susan Claggett, Tom Corl, Connie Crow, Deborah Danser, Robert Day, Stephanie French, Doreen Getsinger, Whitley Gray, John Hawkinson, Marsie Hawkinson, Bill Lane, Marie Leonard, Connie Lewis, Steven Meixner, Priscilla Morris, Beth Mufson, Clay Owens, Sumner Parker, Cynthia Quast, Bob Regan, Dee Rein, Nancy Robbins, Adrienne Rudge, Sarah Sayre, Ellen Silbergeld, Jonathan Slocum, Dona Sorce, Paige Tilghman, John Turner, Kevin Walsh, Mary Yancey

Comments on the Tenth Query-*Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach*-none
Later in the meeting the importance of outreach in the world was affirmed as discussion covered a donation for Asbury Methodist church's kitchen which serves the community.

Minutes from Ninth Month-Approved

Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter- *Cynthia Quast*-Accepted

First Quarter of 2020/2021 fiscal year:

Member contributions were over \$8,600 or 16% of our annual budget. Attender contributions total over \$1,500 or 13% of budget. Total income was over \$10,000 or 15% of budget. Expenses were just over \$13,000 or 19% of budget. Net Income year-to-date was minus \$2,894.

On Balance Sheet as of 9/30/20, we had over \$63,700 in operating checking account and about \$74,000 in Invested operating funds at Friends Fiduciary.

Compared to last year, Member contributions are \$170 more than last year and our total income is down by \$1,300. Our expenses are down year-to-date by over \$6,800 due to an inadvertent delayed payment of our Covenant to PYM.

Worship and Ministry Report-Gwen Beegle-Accepted

We seek to allow the way to open to worship together in this new meeting space, valuing each other and our community. Worship and Ministry's task continues to be to make sure that members and attenders feel equally welcomed and valued whether they attend on grounds or via Zoom. It is important that we work to better connect the on grounds and the online meeting components into one community, supporting the meeting for worship so that each option feels equally authentic, embraced, and connected to each other.

Safety concerns were shared by Molly about opening the Old Meeting House. The public health officer noted that meeting for worship does not involve many Covid safety risks that other faith communities face: no singing, preaching, reciting or recirculating of air via HVAC systems of modern houses.

Members are generally positive about meeting in the Old Meeting House, while noting that safety is still very important and the Zoom option must be maintained for the foreseeable future. Safety provisions include: wearing masks, seating in every other bench, allowing for adequate safe social distance between people, entering/exiting without crowding, possibly using an outside space (by the door at the top of the entrance ramp) for vocal ministry or other speaking, possible totally silent meeting, providing hand sanitizer, contact list, and possible use of open windows and entrances. It is important for people to understand that we are not going to sanitize the meeting house. Reminder: on Zoom please mute video if moving to drink or walk around.

Discussion of return to old meeting house for in person meetings on grounds ensued.

Zoom meetings will continue. In addition, opening of the old meeting house will continue to connect both parts of the community and keep them equally connected.

Vocal ministry is a vital component of meeting for worship. Old Meeting House use is healing. Technical and Worship and Ministry representatives will consult to implement-
Approved

Property & Grounds Annual Report Fiscal year 2019-2020- Priscilla Morris-

Accepted

Priscilla acknowledged the work of three clerks this year: Ben Tilghman; Bob Day and Priscilla Morris as subsequent co-clerks. Property and Grounds' budget generally comprises half of the Third Haven's annual budget. This includes the caretakers salary, general operating costs such as utilities, internet and cleaning. Also included in the budget are costs of minor repairs to the property and equipment. Property and Grounds ended the fiscal year 2019-2020 about \$1400 over budget. This was due to the unexpected cost to deep clean both the Common Room and the Brick Meeting House. This added a \$2800 to our budget that we had not anticipated. The advent of the Covid lockdown sharply curtailed the committee's activities. Despite the pandemic, the committee was able to carry forward on a number of items. The Peace Pole is awaiting the final carvings and should be available for mounting this coming spring. Thanks to Bill Lane's efforts the caretaker's cottage was painted and repaired. We have a bid of \$900 to repair the front steps to the cottage. The committee will review the bid and determine whether to accept it or possibly attempt the repairs ourselves. Work has begun on the new front doors to the Brick Meeting House. The new doors, which will resemble the old doors in style and appearance, will resolve the issues created by the brick entrance steps. Bids were received for the replacement of the pillar at the entrance to the drive. After much thought and discussion by the committee and the Trustees, we were unable to arrive at a decision to replace the pillar. We concluded to table this issue for this year. Finally we have had to address the unexpected expense to clean up the damage from the windstorm this summer. While the total cost for the clean up is not yet known, we anticipate the total could be as high as ten thousand dollars. The committee is preparing to work with Worship and Ministry on opening the Old Meeting House for worship. We ask that members of the Meeting join us on the 17th of this month to clean the OMH and prepare it for services. The committee has begun to examine ways to do a better job of keeping track of needed repairs and maintain an accurate log of repairs completed. We ask that members share their concerns with the committee and also that members do not take on repairs without checking with the clerk of P&G,

Nominating Committee Report- Connie Crow-Accepted

The updated nominating spread sheet will be included in announcements. Responses to the committee: Connie, Jonathan Slocum, and Nancy Robbins, are welcome.

Discussion considered the option to shelve some committees whose work has not occurred due to Covid 19: Hospitality, Outreach, Detention Center. Options included fluidity with creativity and adaptation to the current Covid circumstances, all of which may change through the coming year. Consider your gifts! Next report is November Meeting for Business with Attention to Business.

Update from Testimonies & Concerns- Paige Tilghman

Request support for letter objecting wetlands permit for pipeline through Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset County wetland letter to state board of works re safety and climate concerns. Third Haven would be added as an organization supporting this letter. – Approved-see addendum below

Quaker Voice, a Maryland committee for legislation much like Friends Committee on National Legislation, with Whitley Gray as our representative. Criminal justice and law enforcement reform, climate justice and immigration rights and civil rights are Third Haven's focus suggestions to Quaker Voice. - previously Approved

Asbury Methodist building fund project report: work begins in a week or so. Generosity and an ongoing challenge grant have helped this project. Anticipation is that the kitchen will be functional again by May 1. A donation on behalf of the Meeting will be considered by Testimonies and Concerns for a recommendation next month.

The Shoffner fund has grown to \$19600 so it's close to being able to distribute interest. Donation consideration will be presented next month. First Day School will be included in this process so children learn about the process of charitable giving.

New Business-none

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:45 p.m.
D. Rein, recorder

Addendum

Eastern Shore Pipeline Opposition Sign-on Letter-Third Haven signature Approved
Two proposed pipelines would connect to bring fracked gas from Delaware into Maryland down the Eastern Shore, threatening the region's ecosystems and drinking water supplies, and causing irreparable damage to the land and our climate.

The 2020s will see our futures defined by how we address the climate crisis. If you are part of an organization, labor group, faith group, community association, nonprofit, any other group, or are just a concerned member of the community, you can sign on to this letter demanding that BPW reject these proposed pipelines

Dear Maryland Board of Public Works:

We, the undersigned organizations and residents of Maryland's Eastern Shore, are writing to express our opposition to two proposals to build gas pipelines through Maryland. We know that these interconnected projects would reverse course on our region's efforts to protect the health and safety of our communities and combat climate change.

The Eastern Shore Natural Gas Company (ESNG) is seeking approval to build 19 miles of new pipeline that would carry fracked gas from Delaware into Maryland. The seven miles of the "Del-Mar" Pipeline that would be built in Maryland would connect with a separate 11-mile pipeline proposed by Chesapeake Utilities. The main purpose of the Chesapeake Utilities project is to provide gas to two state facilities—the Eastern

Correctional Institute and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

These two private companies, ESNG and Chesapeake Utilities, are proposing to run utilities into state-owned property. As such, it is our understanding and strong hope that the Board of Public Works will have an opportunity to weigh in on these two controversial proposals.

Given that Maryland has banned fracking, it defies our state's existing energy policy to bring the same public health risks to our residents by way of pipelines. Moreover, enabling fossil fuel production runs counter to our state's goals of increasing renewable energy production. We are appalled that the request for proposals put out by the State of Maryland to repower the university and prison foreclosed the possibility of a clean energy by only requesting applications for gas. We are equally angered that this proposal to repower with dangerous fracked gas is being touted as a "clean alternative".

The construction and operation of the Del-Mar Pipeline would impact 1,239 square feet of streams and over 16,000 square feet of wetlands in Maryland. ESNG plans to install its pipeline through at least one older, forested wetland that is vulnerable to construction-related impacts using the destructive "open trench" method of construction. While the specifics of the 11-mile Chesapeake Utilities pipeline are not yet known, we anticipate similar impacts to our regional water resources.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland has been called "ground zero" for sea level rise due to climate change. We are at particular risk due to the Shore's ongoing land subsidence and our long shorelines and low-lying areas. Much of Maryland's 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline are found on the Eastern Shore, which, according to the latest science, will experience near daily flooding by 2100. We are concerned about the wisdom of investing in pipelines will lock us into decades of reliance on fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

In addition to violating the spirit of our renewable energy portfolio and fracking ban, the ENSG and Chesapeake Utilities pipelines would also directly endanger public health. We are concerned that we are being asked to put our environment and public health at risk for a pipeline that we may not have use for in the near future as our state and the country moves towards clean energy.

We strongly urge the Board of Public Works to reject these proposals.

Signed by 34 organizations

Meeting for Worship Shifts



On First Day, October 18 we returned to the Old Meeting House with great caution for Meeting for Worship. Our resumption of Quaker worship following eight months of quarantine was done with the blessing of a representative of the local health department when he was informed of our practices. Recommended preventive measures include continual wearing of a mask especially while speaking, staying home if there is evidence of illness, verbal instructions prior to entry, seating in alternate rows, 6 foot separation

except for immediate family members, warm clothing for unheated space, and limiting social discussion to outside after rise of meeting. Virtual Quaker meeting on Zoom is being conducted simultaneously, unifying members on the grounds and online.

Financials Recap *Cynthia Quast*

Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting

Here is a recap of the Treasurer's financials for the 1st Quarter of our 2020/2021 fiscal year. July – Sept, 2020

Member Contributions	= \$8,645	= 16 % of annual budget
Total Income	= \$10,182	= 15 % of annual budget
Total Expenses	= \$13,076	= 19 % of annual budget
Net Income	= - \$2,894	

Contributions Welcome! Please consider making a tax- deductible contributions supporting our annual budget to:

Treasurer, Third Haven Monthly Meeting
PO Box 2379, Easton, MD 21601

supporting care of our historic property to:

Trustees of Third Haven Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends,
Treasurer

9249 High Banks Drive, Easton, Md. 21601.

Announcements

The Third Haven newsletter circulates during the first week of each month to enable readers to review the minutes of the most recent meeting for worship with attention to business.

Announcements <http://www.thirdhaven.org/announcements.php>
Calendar of Activities <http://www.thirdhaven.org/calendar.php>
Online directory <http://www.thirdhaven.org/members/dir.php>

November 1 [Sunday]
Daylight saving time ends at 2:00 AM

Meeting for Worship for Business day and time will be announced

Maryland Spirituals Initiative

The following two links share information on an historical initiative covered in The Spy publication and a further link to the project's website with wonderful music and history.

<https://talbotspy.org/the-spirituals-initiative-with-kentavius-jones/>

“Bringing an empowering history to life, through artistic representation, written accounts and oral histories, with a selection of songs recorded by an intergeneration choir of Marylanders.”

<https://www.marylandspiritualsinitiative.com/music>



Waters Church, Oxford, Md.



The book *There is a City Called Heaven* by Barbara Paca honors early African American spirituals recorded by artists and writers on Maryland's Eastern Shore over one-hundred years ago and represented by artist Ruth Starr Rose.

Visit the on-line platform, which includes an illustrated book for everyone interested in history, culture, theology, art, and music.

<https://www.marylandspiritualsinitiative.com/there-is-a-city-called-heaven>