



April 2019

Minutes & Reports

Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Meeting for Business in Worship

March 10, 2019

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Friends Meeting at Cambridge (FMC) gathered in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, March 10, at 1:15 pm. The Meeting was convened by Deborah Colgan, Co-Presiding Clerk, after a period of silent worship, with 42 people present. The Clerk opened the Meeting by reading from *Experiencing God: Three Spiritual Practices* by Arthur M. Larrabee, pg. 26:

I sometimes wonder whether we might not do much better as Friends, in our meetings for business, if we started out by asking, "What is all the truth that we can identify in this matter? How much truth can we get before the meeting before we even begin to look for a decision?" We don't often do this. What often happens is that we too soon speak our opinions and hoped for conclusions, having discussion with our heads, but not waiting for what might arise from our deeper selves.

When we welcome paradox we find ourselves living more fully in the present moment, willing to wait for God's voice, willing to wait for spontaneous consciousness to manifest in our lives.

Announcements

2019-017

Rick Talkov announced that the April 14 Meeting for Business in Worship will take place at Cambridge Friends School (CFS). The monthly potluck will be there also (because of the lack of a full kitchen, Friends should bring cold dishes only). We'll have our Business Meeting, then adjourn to have the **annual meeting of the CFS Corporation**, which consists of all the members of FMC. Major items of business in that meeting are a rewriting of the by-laws, a major change to which is an elimination of term limits for officers and for the Board of Trustees, and, as usual, a slate of new officers and trustees will be presented. We will also hear from some current students about their experiences at the school.

Greg Williams died on February 14, 2019. He was a member of New Bedford (Massachusetts) Friends Meeting, but he worshipped and witnessed (especially about race and racism) at FMC often over the years. Friends held Greg, his friends, and his family in the Light. There will be a memorial for him some time in the future.

Lorena Boswell, Resident Friend, announced that **staff evaluation forms** are ready for Friends' responses. The forms have been sent out digitally. They are due on April 14 for individual replies and soon after that for committee responses.

Lorena also shared that on Saturday, March 9, she and other Friends facilitated the workshop **Noticing Patterns of Oppression**; eight or nine people from FMC attended. She found it a powerful experience to practice how to deal with patterns of oppression while also observing patterns of faithfulness. Friends should ask a participant for more details. This work will continue at New England Yearly Meeting sessions in August.

Ian Harrington announced that **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**, the Quaker lobby in Washington, DC, is reviewing its policy statement, with the help of interested Monthly Meetings. Ian will send out information on this and asks that interested Friends contact him; a time will be found to meet. Ian also mentioned a plan to form an FCNL Advocacy Team in Boston; there will be a meeting on Sunday, March 31, at 1:00 pm to get Friends' input.

Daniel Fitzmartin, for **Friends for Racial Justice Committee (FORJ)**, announced a new series of FORJ Fridays; the first will be on March 29 in the Friends Center at 6:00 pm for pizza and salad, 6:30 pm for viewing a Doctrine of Discovery video by Lisa Graustein followed by discussion. Childcare will be provided if requested in advance.

Friends were reminded about the All-Meeting Retreat taking place from Friday, March 15, through Sunday, March 17, at the Retreat Center in Alfred, Maine. Fifty people have signed up; there is room for one more. A number of children are coming. The theme of the retreat is "At Odds: Listening Our Way Through Conflict". Participants will explore their own personal conflict styles and ways to listen their way through conflict.

Liz Moore, from the Adult Education Working Group, reminded Friends of the **Deepening Our Meeting Life** all-day workshop on April 6, to be led by Peter Blood-Patterson. Interested Friends should register online. Unfortunately, this is happening on the same day as Living Faith workshops of New England Yearly Meeting; this was an oversight that Resident Friend Lorena Boswell hopes to avoid in the future by implementing changes in scheduling procedures.

The Memorial Meeting for **Charles (Chuck) Woodbury** will take place on March 23 at 1:30 pm. Friends are asked to bring savory and sweet snacks for the reception after the meeting.

Ministry and Counsel: Memorial Minute for Noa Hall Williams

2019-018

Jonathan Vogel-Borne read a Memorial Minute for Noa Hall Williams. Friends approved the minute, slightly amended, and held Noa and her family and friends in the Light. The Clerks will forward the minute to Salem Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsel. The text of the minute can be found in the April edition of *Minutes & Reports*.

Ministry and Counsel: Nurturing Faithfulness

2019-019

Gail Rogers, Co-Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, spoke on the NEYM Nurturing Worship, Faith and Faithfulness program (now known as Nurturing Faithfulness), which lasts for ten months. Liz Moore, Jennifer Hogue, and Mary Coelho participated in the program the year before last (the program did not take place last year). As a result of their participation, Deepening Faithfulness groups have been formed at FMC and Jennifer has hosted monthly forums to discuss *Our Life is Love*, by Marcelle Martin. The Adult Education Working Group is reaching out particularly to young adults to interest them in participating in the Nurturing Faithfulness program during the coming year. Applications are due on April 1, if possible; the process involves answering a set of questions, the answers of which are to be shared with a clearness committee to discern whether or not the program is appropriate for the applicant.

Two years ago, \$5000 was set aside by the Meeting to help with the high tuition of the program; \$2000 was spent. For next year, Ministry and Counsel wishes to request up to \$1200 per person, for a total of up to \$3600.

Friends discussed this proposed expenditure. There was concern that the proposed expenditure is high, given the Meeting's financial situation and ongoing discernment on financial priorities. On the other hand, Friends pointed out the benefits to the Meeting community at large. Seeking potential monetary sources such as Salem Quarterly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting was recommended, as well as possibly repurposing some money such as that in the Grants Committee budget.

The Clerk asked Ministry and Counsel to work with the Interim Grants Committee on refining the proposal before we discern further on it.

Nominating Committee Report

2019-020

Lili Schwan-Rosenwald, Co-Clerk of Nominating Committee, announced that Ann Foster will be the contact person for Memorials Committee. Ann has resigned from Membership Committee. Lili also announced that Nancy Frost and Polly Attwood are now Co-Clerks of Friends for Racial Justice Committee.

Lili presented Jonathan Vogel-Borne as Assistant Clerk for a second reading. Friends gave final approval for this appointment. Lili noted that we still don't have a female Co-Clerk for next year.

Ministry and Counsel has requested that Meeting be open to appointing faithful attenders to the Committee. Susan Davies, Co-Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, explained that the large amount of time required from members of the Committee and the desire for more young people, led the Committee to this recommendation. In discussing this proposal, Friends made these points:

- a more productive and appropriate way to include people would be to encourage them to become members of the Meeting;
 - we need to be willing to change, and to consider what membership in the Meeting means, and why some very active Friends do not want to become formal members;
 - if our intention is to have some but not too many non-members on the Committee, perhaps we should quantify that more precisely;
 - the intention of this proposal is to be open to considering having non-members on the Committee, not to be looking actively for non-members *per se*;
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- we need to hear the stories about why people are not becoming members—we need to be talking more about this;
- committee work binds us together, and may be the experience that convinces people to become members.

The Clerk asked the Meeting to trust Ministry and Counsel's wisdom and discernment on this matter, pointing out that Ministry and Counsel does not appoint its members; rather, Nominating discerns about candidates recommended by Ministry and Counsel, and the Meeting actually appoints them. Friends approved, with two Friends standing aside.

Gardening and Landscaping Committee Annual Report

2019-021

Nancy Hewitt, Clerk of Gardening and Landscaping Committee, presented the Committee's annual report. After Friends held the Committee members in the Light, Nancy emphasized that the Committee has been mulching, planting shrubs, pruning, planting new groundcover, planting bulbs, creating new planters, and inviting the participation of students from First Day School. The Committee is coming together, and are planning play dates and field trips related to gardening. Nancy said that they are going to try a new treatment for the birch trees and hope that they can save the trees, on a one-year-at-a-time basis. Friends accepted the report and expressed appreciation for the Committee's work. The full text of the report can be found in the April edition of *Minutes & Reports*.

Trustees Committee Report on Energy Efficiency/Savings

2019-022

David White, Co-Clerk of Trustees Committee, presented a report on *Greening the FMC Facilities*. Trustees, working with Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness (CQEW) and others, have made considerable progress on improving the environmental aspects of our buildings and operations. Over 20 years, electricity use has decreased by 29%, gas by 15%, and oil by 9%.

David mentioned the positive effects of efficient light fixtures, high-efficiency appliances, and programmable thermostats. They have now found an option, through Cambridge's Community Choice Aggregation program, to reduce our carbon footprint for electricity to zero. They continue to investigate how to maximize the efficiency of our heating systems, to reduce water use on the grounds, and to reduce use of throw-away products as much as possible. The full text of the report can be found in the April edition of *Minutes & Reports*.

Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Proposal (CISC)

2019-023

Susan Davies, FMC's sanctuary volunteer coordinator and Steering Committee representative to the Cambridge Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (CISC) for the last two years, reported that a number of volunteers have questioned the time and energy spent on care and support of the three Sanctuary guests at the University Lutheran Church and feel ready to spend more of their time on accompaniment, advocacy, and community education about immigration policies. Susan said that she was ready to step down from her formal roles in CISC, and recommended that FMC end its formal membership in CISC. Volunteers, of course, can continue their individual work in the Coalition. Susan reminded us that Meeting gave CISC \$3000 in the first year and \$2000 last year. Meeting will further discern what contribution we may make next year.

In answer to a question, Susan said that she expects that CISC will be disappointed by our withdrawal from formal membership, but the action will be made more palatable by some of our current volunteers continuing their work with the Coalition.

Friends approved laying down our formal membership in CISC and thanked the leadership that has been provided by Susan, Lynn Lazar, Kim West and Elizabeth Claggett-Borne.

The Meeting for Business in Worship adjourned at 3:35 pm, with Friends purposing next to gather in a Meeting for Business in Worship on Sunday, April 14, at 1:15 pm at Cambridge Friends School.

Deborah Colgan, Co-Presiding Clerk
David L Myers, Recording Clerk

Memorial Minute for Noa Hall Williams

February 16, 1943 — May 14, 2014

Noa Hall Williams melded art, spirituality, teaching, family, community, gardening, and social activism into a life well lived. She died May 14, 2014, age 71, at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from cancer. She was admired by all who knew her, for her own unconscious beauty and her amazing capacities as a teacher, friend, and artist.

She was born in Boston on February 16, 1943. Her parents, the architect, designer and painter John Hughes "Jack" Hall and her mother, Dorothy "Dodie" Merwin, were both long-time participants in the Bohemian world which existed in the 1930s and 1940s. Her father, now known for his highly regarded Modernist building "The Hatch House," was a friend of John Dos Passos, Edwin Dickinson, Marcel Breuer and Serge Chermayeff, and her mother, Dodie, who modeled for Rockwell Kent and George Biddle, served in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Program in Oklahoma and in the Peace Corps in the Philippines after she was 65.

Noa spent part of her youth in Mississippi, living with her mother and step-father before returning to New England for boarding school. Her father lived on Cape Cod and in his 30s had joined the Sandwich Friends Meeting. On visits with her father, Noa worshiped with Friends at the South Yarmouth Preparative Meeting.

Noa studied painting with Sidney Simon and her work was shown in many Provincetown, New York, and Boston galleries. As a young woman, she attended the High Mowing School in New Hampshire (where she later served as trustee), the Sorbonne in Paris, and the Bellevue School of Nursing in New York. She taught four-year-olds at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge.

Noa and her husband Ike (John) Williams began attending Friends Meeting at Cambridge in the late 1960s. She became a member of the Meeting in 1987. For Noa, Meeting was a spiritual home and a nurturing community—a place where she and Ike brought up their three children. She made many friends, especially with other artists in the Meeting. Noa served on a number of Meeting committees, including Membership, Oversight, Exhibits, Gardening and Landscaping, and Care and Support. In the fall of 2004, as part of the Meeting's ongoing art exhibits, Noa had a one woman show of her paintings.

Noa's artistic and decorative tastes, both interior and exterior, created wonderful gardens and furnishings in Cambridge and at her family's house on Bound Brook Island in Wellfleet. Her sweet disposition belied a fierce devotion to her children in whom she instilled a deep sense of love for the natural world, a strong belief in social justice, and appreciation of the arts and music.

As a long-time Quaker and Buddhist, Noa faced her death with equanimity, upholding the Buddhist precept, "Live Well, Learn to Die." Memorial Meetings for worship were held at Friends Meeting at Cambridge and at her summer home in Wellfleet, Massachusetts.

Annual Report of Gardening and Landscaping Committee — 2018

The following are some of the accomplishments of the Gardening and Landscaping Committee in 2018:

1. We laid another four cubic yards of mulch on the property. (Every year we are extending the area of freshly laid mulch. In 2017 we also laid four cubic yards.)
 2. We planted two new Kalmia (mountain laurel) on our north side of the property boundary. (This was very labor intensive, especially digging old roots out from previous shrubs.)
 3. We replaced/refurbished the playground mulch in the kids' jungle gym play area. (Different grade than landscaping mulch.)
 4. We did lots of pruning to trees and shrubs (many, various around property).
 5. We did much weeding and eliminating of invasives on the property, but especially in the "kitchen" beds and the northeast beds abutting a neighbor's property on Brattle Street.
 6. The front hedge is in better "shape."
 7. The two bike racks are now side by side. Much transplanting and pruning took place before the second rack was transported to align with the first rack behind the front hedge.
 8. There is new pachysandra stock filling in the holes around the FDS embankment. (This had been dug out and subsequently washed out after some major (electrical? gas?) repair work a few years prior to this.)
 9. New daffodils and hyacinth bulbs have, again, been planted by FDS that will emerge in the spring along the north side of the Meetinghouse beds.
 10. The side-door entrance to the Meetinghouse was pruned and groomed for the fall and winter.
 11. New "barrel" flower pots were bought for and planted by FDS increasing the total large pots on the property to six. They were planted with some annuals and some dug-up perennials from the property.
 12. The First Day School has approached Garden Committee's Clerk to brainstorm what else FDS might help with onsite, besides planting and raking leaves. We are brainstorming to see what might work, possibly starting flower, veggie, or herb seedlings.
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13. The Clerk suggested having “play dates” of outings or field trips related to gardening that we might take in as a group in 2019 to have some FUN while gathering ideas for our beloved grounds!

In spite of being short-staffed, our committee rallied, bonded, and took on projects to beautify some of the more noticeable areas of the property. We function with creativity and inclusion encouraging members to participate in areas they enjoy as well as regular tasks where we need all hands on deck. We are developing beautiful plans as well as our sense of humor and our deepening commitment to the stewardship of our beautiful, spiritual home.

Greening the FMC Facilities—Trustees Committee

The Trustees Committee, with the assistance of Cambridge Quaker Earthcare Witness (CQEW) and others, has been working on ways of improving the environmental aspects of our buildings and operations for many years.

We started this work about twenty years ago and have made considerable progress, although there is still more to do. We have had several energy audits and have replaced most of the lighting with high efficiency LED fixtures. When replacing appliances we have chosen high efficiency ones. We have also installed programmable thermostats so that rooms are only heated as needed. Compared to our energy usage in 2001, we have reduced electricity consumption by 29 percent, natural gas (used in the Friends Center) by 15 percent, and heating oil (used to heat the Meetinghouse) by 9 percent. The equivalent CO₂ emissions have been reduced by about 22 percent.

About a quarter of our CO₂ emissions are associated with electricity use. We can eliminate that entirely by switching to 100% renewable electricity. We have explored that possibility for a number of years but were never able to find an option that we felt comfortable with. That has changed in the last year as the City of Cambridge has established a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) option for electricity. For more information on this see:

<http://masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/options-pricing>

The default CCA option is cheaper than the utility rate, and has a renewable fraction slightly above the state requirement. The CCA also has a 100% renewable option that is only slightly more expensive. Based on rates that are guaranteed for two years, switching to 100% green electricity would only increase our annual electricity bill by \$200—that is only about 4% of the \$5,000 that FMC pays for electricity. The Trustees Committee plans to move forward with this change which will reduce FMC’s CO₂ emissions by about 25%. We also note that the Cambridge CCA program has a solar target 25% above the state requirement that will be met by new solar projects in or near Cambridge.

This also ties into a minute from New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) sessions last summer asking meetings and individuals to find ways to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 10%. We encourage individuals who live in communities with the CCA option, including Cambridge, Somerville, Arlington, Brookline, and Newton, to look into higher renewable levels, and, for those who live in communities where that is not yet an option, to encourage your local officials to set one up.

The Trustees Committee has also been exploring ways to reduce our fossil fuel use for heating, but that is a complicated and potentially expensive process. We have improved the building

insulation in a number of ways, but doing more is difficult with brick buildings in a historical district. We will continue with these investigations.

We have been using green cleaning products at FMC for years. We have also been using paints and other products (such as carpets) that have low emissions. We have been using recycled paper products, and reusable cups, dishes, flatware and napkins as much as possible. In addition to regular recycling, our food waste now goes into a Cambridge composting program. To reduce water use we have widely installed low volume toilets and flow reduction valves on sinks and showers. Something to explore further with the Gardening and Landscaping Committee is reducing water needs for our plantings and lawn. Another thing FMC has done is ask people to reduce the use of personal scents. Trustees have also modified the fireplace procedures to significantly reduce the risk of smoke entering the Meetinghouse room.

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To receive newsletter write to:
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Friends Meeting at Cambridge

Return Service Requested

Meetings for Worship at FMC

5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge

Sundays 10:30 am
5:00 pm
Wednesdays 8:30 am to 10 am

South Shore Preparative Meeting

155 Washington St. (Rt. 53), Pembroke
Sundays 10:00 am
Joanne Heffernan
781-337-9337

Worship Group at Brookhaven

1010 Waltham Street, Lexington
Sundays 10:30 am
Elisabeth Cotten
781-862-7578

Other Nearby Worship Opportunities

Acton Friends Meeting,

Contact Clerk, acton@neym.org

Amesbury Monthly Meeting, 120 Friend St., Amesbury

Sundays 10:00 am

Beacon Hill Friends Meeting, 6 Chestnut St., Boston

Sundays 10:30 am

Cambridge Friends School, 5 Cadbury Rd., Cambridge

Tuesdays 8:30 to 9:00 am

Framingham Friends Meeting, 841 Edmands Rd., Framingham

Sundays 10:00 am

Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting, CFS Cambridge

Sundays 10:00 am

Lawrence Monthly Meeting, 15 Forest St., Methuen

Sundays 6:30 pm

Nashoba Worship Group, nashobaquakers@gmail.com

Sundays 10:30 am

North Shore Monthly Meeting, 74 Hart St., Beverly Farms

Sundays 10:00 am

Wellesley Friends Meeting, 26 Benvenue St., Wellesley

Sundays 10:30 am