

**Concord Quarterly Meeting Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes for February 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at Concord Meeting**

Present: Chris McKenney (B), Marion Walker (C), Julie Senko (B), Tom Haviland (WT) and Treasurer, Gwynne Ormsby (B), Steve Kupferschmid (Willis), Deb Wood (WT) and Clerk, Debbie Murray-Sheppard (Wilm), Deb Lyons (WC), Rich Ailes (M), Chris Smith (WC), David Leonard (B) and Recording Clerk, Lynne Piersol (Coordinator)

Regrets: Bruce Harrison (WT), Ray Hamilton (C), Goshen Representative

We opened with worship

1. The October 27, 2017 minutes of Planning Committee were approved.
2. **Review QM at Wilmington on January 28 at Wilmington Meeting:** 32 Friends were present at the beginning of Quarterly Meeting with all meetings represented. 36 were present at the end. Wilmington says there were 90 present including children at the end of worship. 55-60 were at the program and lunch. There were at least 14 children, including at least 5 from other meetings. This is a bigger attendance than in recent Quarterly Meetings. It felt good to Wilmington to see so many people from the Quarter present.
3. **Planning of Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham Meeting for April 22, 2018**

Business Agenda will include

Joys and Challenges Report (West Chester – a group is being formed to write it)

Treasurer's Report (A preliminary budget for 2018-19 will be presented and the Treasurer will look at the audit recommendations to see what is being done already (much of it has been implemented) and what still needs to be done. He'll look at the excess money in the bank and make a recommendation as part of the budget process. *Deb Wood, Rich Ailes and Chris McKenney will consult with Tom Haviland regarding the budget*)

Update on Possible Care Relationship between DVFS and Concord Quarter

Possible Minute on Nuclear Weapons from Birmingham Meeting (Birmingham's hope is to pass it on March 4 at which time the Coordinator can send it out to the other meetings in the Quarter). Wording is not yet finalized. Birmingham hopes that, if approved by the Quarter, it could come to PYM Annual Sessions.

Ad Hoc Committee on Monthly Meetings with Limited Attendance

Working Group on Aging Concerns Update

Coordinator's Report

State of the Meeting/Quarter Report: (After a lengthy discussion about what this might involve and the value of it for the Quarter, *it was decided that a State of the Quarter report is worth having the conversation about and is of value to us.* PYM's Quaker Life Council would like these in time for Annual Sessions, but the timing is too tight for us. There are guidelines for the process. Individual meetings are considering the process as well. *It was decided that a portion of the agenda for Quarterly Meeting in April will be a time for meetings to share their thoughts about the strengths and hopes for the Quarter, and then again in July as a basis for writing a*

report. There was also some discussion of the state of first day school programs in the Quarter and the limited number of children who attend at some meetings. We have a strong Planning Committee!)

Programs: Birmingham’s program will be a play about George Fox (written ahead of time) put on by the children, with queries for the adults. All children who come to Quarterly Meeting will all be able to have a part. Children too young to participate will have other activities.

Schedule:

- 8:15-8:30 Sign-In**
- 8:30-9:45 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**
- 10:00-11:15 Meeting for Worship (they have opening exercises)**
- 11:30-12:30 Program**
- 12:30-1:30 Shared Meal provided by Birmingham Meeting Youth Program/Child Care (see Programs above)**

4. Review and Updates on recent Youth & Intergenerational Activities

Dec 9, 2017	Parents Morning Off at the cabin at Westtown, with Western Quarter. We had 14 children attend from Western and Concord Quarters. Tom Haviland and Elson Blunt helped from Concord Qtr; Sarah Kastriner and another person helped from Western. Everyone had a great time and we’d like to do it again.... Although an email was sent out for feedback, only one person responded.
Feb 24, 2018	Square Dance at Willistown. Snow date is March 10. Need to finalize details (set up, food – what will Planning Committee bring? Willistown will provide beverages. How to deal with donations for food cupboard?
	Other events? Coordinator will be working with Sarah Kastriner from Western Quarter on the Tubing event to find a date other than Fathers’ Day, and perhaps another Parents Morning Off.

- 5. Nominating Committee Update** – The group is appreciative that Deb Lyons will be Concord Quarter’s representative to PYM Nominating Council.
- 6. Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns:** The group is working on an “Aging in Place” program to be held at Goshen Meeting on March 3, in addition to the training for Aging Concerns Facilitators to be held in mid-April. There are currently 11 people registered from the Quarter with a few more expected. Registration will now be opened up to members of other meetings until space is full.
- 7. Newsletter Articles** – Rich Ailes would like an article on George Fox (Birmingham’s Youth Committee?), one on Birmingham’s minute on nuclear weapons (Gwynne Ormsby?), one on the Care Group process that Birmingham uses to assign a member of Care and Counsel to every 10 members (Barb Knickerbocker will be asked), and an article about Wilmington’s 200th Anniversary (Debbie Murray-Sheppard).
- 8. Outreach** – Would the Quarter like to have a Facebook page? The Coordinator will do some research about how this be set up and best serve the Quarter. Willistown and Wilmington currently have FB pages so Lynne will consult with them and other resources.

9. **In reach** - An idea has been raised about organizing a “Clerks and Reps of the Quarter” gathering to talk about common concerns. This came from Willistown, and has been run by at least one other Clerk who thought it was a good idea. *It was decided to have a separate space (the School House) for Clerks to eat lunch at Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham.* It was felt that having a separate meeting was less likely to attract people. We considered offering a different Quarter “thread gathering” at each QM at lunch. There is also an idea to have a training for recording clerks. David Leonard and Rich Ailes could do it, but no plans were set for this. Idea of a survey for interest in events, programs? We have an idea submitted recently for a program on: Property assessments and techniques for financing capital improvements, Maintaining cemeteries, and an advanced study of Quakerism. It was noted that there will be a PYM thread gathering on the property issues next fall.
10. **Update on Tom Brown Endowed Chair** – stay tuned
11. **Delaware Valley Friends School ad hoc working group** – Coordinator has added several folks from DVFS to our mailing list, and she is on their mailing list now. Deb Wood and the Coordinator will reach out to Kirk Smothers, Head of DVFS since we did not hear from him after he was expected at QM, but wasn’t present. DVFS may plan a visitation day. Lynne will put a link to their newsletter in the next announcements in the spirit of increasing information flow about the school.
12. **Ecojustice Collaborative weather event project in December** – No further update available.
13. **Upcoming and past meeting events:** Friday, February 16 – talk at Wilmington on the Hicksite/Orthodox split by Thomas Hamm, 7:30pm

Willistown’s program on prison reform on February 10 was a “smashing success” with about 60 people attending, including a number from outside the meeting, and from other meetings in the Quarter.

14. **Coordinator report/oversight concerns, suggestions?** – not discussed.

We closed with worship

Minutes by Lynne Piersol