

# WOODSTOWN FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2009

### Meeting for Business Notes

April 5th, 2009 9:30 am

Meeting began with worship. The notes from March Meeting for Business were accepted.

Treasurers Report **Jack Mahon** described the income and expenses for March. He stated that the contributions to the Collector, Casey Palmer are behind budget. Jack then presented the budget predicted for 2009-10, which starts July 1, 2009, and answered questions about some items. The report was approved.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Building Committee (Mike Ayars)

We received site plan approval from the Woodstown Planning & Zoning Board. Ross led Connie, Bruce, and me through an hour + of testimony. All the variances we requested were granted and the board approved our site plan with the following conditions:

1. a waiver from the water & sewer authority for the addition of a bathroom
2. Consult with the Historic Commission about
  1. the type of window on the side of the H/C bath that is visible from the street. The preference is for a wood window but the board asked us to consult.
  2. At least two members of the historic commission should review our plans and confirm that the historic commission does not need to approve the addition.

If we have to purchase a waiver from the sewer authority, that could be pricey. We will argue that we are not increasing usage, just spreading existing usage over 1 more toilet. A fallback could be to convert one of the existing bathrooms into a cleaning closet since we are losing closet space. My vote would be the bathroom on the Social Room side closest to the meeting room, since we will have the handicapped accessible toilet available in the adjacent area. I am not in favor of having to purchase another EDU if that's what the sewer authority requires.

#### **The Building Committee met Tuesday, April 7 at 7 PM in the Social Room.**

We had decisions to make about carpet, tile, and brick. We are ready to go out for bid, so we will assemble our list of contractors to invite to bid. We have at least 45 days before we can apply for a building permit, but we're ready! Tonight was a big hurdle and we're glad to be past it. Thanks to **Charlie, Gary, and George** for attending and giving us moral support.

### **Standing Committees**

#### Best Interests (Gail Scuderi)

Best Interests committee will meet on Friday April 10th at Friends Village to distribute Easter flowers to resident Friends. We will also be hosting refreshments after Easter Meeting

for Worship. All are welcome to help with both activities. Please bring snacks to share for Easter Meeting.

Next Best Interests meeting will be the 2nd Friday in October at 11:30 Am.

Nominating (Colleen Prater)

Annex Committee and Religious Ed. Committee are both still in need of a clerk. Patti Burns is also looking for a co-clerk or partner to help with the adult education program. Religious Education committee thought it was fine and helpful to break that task off into its own subcommittee.

**Woodstown Monthly Meeting  
2009**

<b>Clerk</b> .....	Frank Lenik	<b>Assist. Clerk</b> .....	Mike Ayars
<b>Recording Clerk</b> .....	Terry Fox	<b>Collector</b> .....	Casey Palmer
<b>Recorder</b> .....	Chris Mahon	<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Jack Mahon

**Trustees:** Frank Lenik, Jack Mahon, George Houghton

A full listing of the Monthly Meeting’s committees is on the Committees and Groups page of the Meeting’s website [www.woodstownfriends.org](http://www.woodstownfriends.org)

Oversight (Jeff Gibson)

Oversight Committee wants to remind everyone who has a favorite charity to notify the committee as soon as possible; the list of charities will be compiled during the May committee meeting, and presented to business meeting in June. This is an annual event to distribute the money earned from the Strawberry Supper to donate to charities.

Property and Finance (George Houghton)

The committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup>. **Gary Holmes** has been waiting for some fair weather to work on the porch at #1 Marlton Road.

**Pauline Coles** announced that the kitchen floor will be scrubbed professionally following the Strawberry Supper. **Casey Palmer** returned our unused orange trash bags for \$93, and purchased regular black ones. In May we should receive approved recycling containers from the Borough. Trash pickup has been changed to every Monday morning. Trash should be placed next to the street in front of the Meeting House on Sunday afternoon. Recycling is collected every other Monday.

We approved a budget of \$61,960 for the next year, an increase of .5% over this year.

Peace and Social Justice (Priscilla Lamont) This committee met on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m.

We reviewed the Adult First Day class visit from the Racial and Social Justice Com. from Yearly Meeting. Their group has been meeting for several years reading and discussing racial justice. They provided many questions to focus our FD class discussion . One visitor, an African American woman, briefly described how it feels to be in the minority. As a group we thought about what our Meeting could do to be welcoming and be more racially integrated:

- Sponsor another walk to Marlton Park with all the churches in Woodstown to sing and have refreshments
- Plan another gathering for our community at the Meetinghouse for all churches to discuss racial differences, similarities and the joys of getting to know each other better
  - Show the DVD "Beyond Our Differences" to the Woodstown community at the Meetinghouse to discuss
  - All churches work on a project together to fix up someone's house, have a community vegetable garden, etc.
  - Have a speaker and invite other churches. Have a picnic or a pot luck supper for all churches.

**Angela Fisher** presented a description of her volunteer work with CASA, which is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the protection of children. Angela passed around a petition to sign to ask the state to continue funding CASA. She noted they need volunteers who represent children in court. Volunteers spend 30 hours in training and usually plan on being with their court appointed child ten hours a week. The volunteer talks with the parents and gets to know the family. Angela suggested that a representative of the CASA staff would like to visit a FDS class to explain the work of this agency.

Priscilla read a letter from **Eric Corson** who is the director of Prisoner Visitation and Support, a national organization located at 1501 Cherry St. He explained that this group was started by Friends and they are seeking volunteers to visit prisoners at federal and military prisons across the country. Prisoner Visitation and Support was started in 1968 to visit imprisoned conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. In 1972, the PVS mission was changed to visit any prisoner who wished to receive visitors. They would like to schedule a time when they could explain this program to our Meeting. Angela volunteered with this group for three years in the past and noted that at that time the federal prison she visited was not very friendly. We agreed to invite them when it is convenient to speak during one FDS class.

We again discussed the use of the sandwich board sign we hope to place in front of the Meeting House with appropriate peace and social justice messages we would change once a month. The committee suggested several messages and hope the FDS class will make some further suggestions. Suggestions from the committee were : Go Green, Care for our World, See the Light in Everyone, Reach Out to Others, Love is the Answer. We plan to meet again April 26th at 11:45 a.m. in the Social Room.

**Religious Education** **Patti Burns** reported that all Adult First Day classes are planned for the remainder of the year. The final meeting will be 10:30 – 11:30 on June 21<sup>st</sup>

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER:***

### **PYM ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SESSIONS – SAVE THE DATES!**

**Summer Sessions: Wed July 29 to Sun August 2, 2009 (DeSales University)**

- May 1<sup>st</sup>** Peace Vigil 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Corner by Sun National Bank
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Peace Demonstration at Franklin Mills Mall near Philadelphia to protest an Army Experience Center which uses simulated weaponry in a high tech audio-visual display to portray war as a big game. Contact Priscilla Lamont for more information.
- May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Monthly Meeting for Business 9:30 a.m. Social Room
- May 30<sup>th</sup>** Strawberry Supper

### **WOODSTOWN FRIENDS MEETING NOTES**

- **Olivia and Larry Kelly** express their great, most sincere gratitude for all your prayers, your support and the wonderful meals many of you have sent their way. Pauline Coles sewed a quilted bag which is embroidered with “Olivia’s Stuff” and a bouquet of flowers which will attach to the side of her wheel chair to carry around her books, glasses and “stuff.”
- Please consider helping any way you can to provide another Strawberry Supper, at the Annex on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. A list will circulate soon for your signatures as volunteer helpers.
- There is a plea for everyone to look carefully through the large pile in the corner of the kitchen for bowls and pans which may be yours and please take them home – we need all the space we can get for the Strawberry Supper.
- **Madeleine Scuderi’s** assignment at Friends School was to write an essay about someone who has done good things that may go unnoticed by the public. Maddie won a contest with her essay. It will be published in the Salem Quarter News. Shirley Lock agreed to print Maddie’s essay in our newsletter only if we continue to highlight other people in our Meeting so we get to know each other.

### **Helen Glass Essay for Peace**

4 March 2009

*“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”*

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

When I first read this quote, it took me while to fully understand what Martin Luther King, Jr. wanted the world to realize and embrace. After a while of contemplating, I thought of all the people in our lives that leave such an immense impact without being noticed. I thought of how they did not only feel for themselves, but felt for others and devoted their lives to others. I thought of someone who has lived up to King's words. Shirley Lock can be classified as one of these individuals who says so little, but does so much for the community and for other individuals.

Shirley is part of Woodstown Monthly meeting (I attend this meeting), and is seen as the glue that helps hold the meeting together. Shirley volunteers at the Disciples Food Pantry, a local organization that serves food to those who can't afford it, and has been there for seven years. She was there when it first started, when it was only a room in the basement with very few people. She says that "I liked seeing the churches come together and working together". Shirley is now the coordinator of the food pantry, organizing volunteers.

One of the most amazing things I find about this woman is that rode her bike from age 16 to 85 (she stopped riding about 3 months ago). She believes in helping the environment and "staying green", even when she's 85 years old. She quotes "I love living in town because I can ride my bike everywhere". I personally do not know many adults who ride their bike to do their errands, and get from one place to another. Shirley however realizes how important it is to cut back on exhaust emission if our planet is to stay green. This made me happy to know that not only young people are ecologically aware.

Shirley was one of the only two white people that belonged to the NAACP or National Administration for the Advancement of Colored People. Shirley told me of how she would bicycle around Cape May County, looking for more people interested in joining. "I met a lot of people that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise", says Shirley. Shirley made the banner that this organization held as they marched through the streets of Washington D.C., fighting for the equal rights of all humans. Shirley also belongs to the Coalition for Peace and Justice, a non-profit peace organization, and a regional chapter of Peace Action. She has dedicated her life to peace. Every Friday, in rain, shine, cold, or heat Shirley Lock stands for a peace vigil on the corner by Woodstown Meeting.

Shirley is very humble about the service she has done, and is very quiet and thoughtful. I am sure there are many other public services she has done for the community and for farther out in the world (she and her husband also traveled to Africa to work as teachers). She understands that in order to be truly happy, we must feel for others and not get caught up in our own problems, worries and wants, the values that Martin Luther King wanted generations of people to embrace. If we want peace to prevail, we must help on another and work together. The war is not one person's problem. Global warming is not one person's problem. They are everyone's problem and we need to value this, in order to move towards peace.

-- Maddy Scuderi, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

I participated in the HAT Run on March 21st.

It is a 50 kilometer race, which is 31 miles to those of us in the US of A. The race is held annually at the Susquehanna State Park near Havre De Grace, Maryland.

There were 445 starters, but only 385 finishers. The course is fairly hilly and somewhat difficult. The winning time for the race was 3 hours 56 minutes and 22 seconds.

I finished 62nd overall, in 5 hours 28 minutes and 18 seconds. I couldn't go up and down stairs for a few days but I got a nice hat!

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A shipment of thirty mine detectors will soon be in the hands of United Nations humanitarian deminers in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The instruments have been donated by church groups, trade associations, individuals and customers of Schonstedt Instrument Company, which manufactures the demining tools and coordinates distribution to the world's most mine-infested countries.

Schonstedt matches each donated unit and ships them, according to UN priorities, to countries where humanitarian demining is most needed and where it would not otherwise be possible. There, demining teams find and clear explosive remnants of war such as cluster bombs, grenades, mortars, shells, landmines and other unexploded ordinance.

This shipment brings to over 250 the number of units, valued at \$1041 each, currently at work in seventeen countries; among them Laos, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Nepal, Egypt, Croatia, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Chad and now Sudan.