

NEWSLETTER

WOODSTOWN FRIENDS MEETING

MEETING FOR BUSINESS NOTES May 3, 2009

Meeting began with Opening Silence led by Clerk, Frank Lenik. There were 21 members present.

Minutes of April 5th, 2009 Notes prepared by Priscilla Lamont were in the April Monthly newsletter but the “minutes” have not been posted .Terry will try to get the minutes to Priscilla sooner for posting in the May newsletter.

Treasurers Report A report prepared by Jack was distributed, as he was not present. Mike noted that our collection Year To Date is only 50% of the projected amount, an amount which is needed to meet our annual general operating expenses. Mike said we only have until June 30 to fulfill this. It was suggested that perhaps we need to bring this to the attention of Friends in our Meeting. A letter ? Some Friends may be affected by the downturn in the economy, so if we ask, we should frame our request with that in mind. As Friends, Frank noted, we are all responsible to minister to each other. Part of the issue is the endowment that we have which Friends may think will meet our expenses. What if we gave that away? Would Friends then be more responsive if we were at zero? Mike noted that the renovations will take a good portion of that endowment temporarily which will diminish that “cushion” considerably. Terry felt that having a cushion of endowment has sustained and benefited the meeting for many years and it would be good to keep that in place for successive generations. It was recommended that perhaps a note/reminder rather than formal letter was more in keeping with our spirit. There was consensus that sending a reminder was a practical matter in keeping our physical plant together. George Houghton will take this to the Property & Finance Committee to move forward. The letter will be sensitive.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committees

Building Committee (submitted by Mike Ayars)

Having received our approvals from the Woodstown Planning & Zoning Board, we are now getting ready to go out for bids. Issues remaining to be cleared up are clearance from the Woodstown Water & Sewer Authority for the new handicap bathroom, and clearness from the Historic Commission for the window in the handicap bathroom. We plan to re-use the existing window in the rear wall of the Social Room, which matches the side windows. We will have the final resolution on June 3, after which we can apply for a building permit.

Our architect, Connie Lezenby, is finishing the construction drawings, and we're assembling our Bidder's list of contractors from whom we will solicit bids.

We're working through the myriad of big and little decisions, trying to balance the esthetics with the budget. Some items, like building a bookcase on the rear Social Room wall, will be left for our own members to do, and others will be “value-add” items that can be included or excluded depending on whether we can afford to include it.

We have agreed we need to include the stabilization and repair of the annex wall (we can see the separation best in the kitchen). We'll be tying into the Annex foundation anyway, so it makes sense while we're down there to fix the cause of the problem. The new lobby will be carpeted in a color similar to the rug in the meetinghouse. Walls will be painted the same color as the Social Room walls. The floor of the handicap bathroom will be beige ceramic tile. As part of the electrical upgrade, we want to wire the entire building for smoke detectors. Their installation and

connection to a monitoring service will be a value-add item. Charlie Haaf is working on getting Verizon to move the pole in the parking lot, which has electric service on it.

We encourage all members who have not yet made a pledge or contribution to consider joining our campaign. Now is the time, so that all may worship. Our Strawberry Supper will bring members of the community with limited mobility to our campus who could benefit from using a ramp to get from the Meeting House to the Annex.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 5, at 7 PM. Connie Lezenby will join us.

Fund Raising Committee Mike reported that the Woodstown Monthly Meeting has applied for a PYM Legacy Grant. (formerly Chace & Bequests Fund). Peter Javsicas and Phil Lord from the granting group will be visiting our meeting this afternoon to discuss our proposal and view the site for their deliberations on Monday. We are \$25,000 short of our fundraising goal. We are beginning to spend money to begin the renovation process.

Standing Committees:

Worship and Ministry (Shirley Lock)

There is a proposal for the formation of a spiritual reading group and prayer group at the Woodstown Monthly Meeting. Worship and Ministry Committee was advised of this, and gave their approval. Dana Houghton read the proposal. The Reading group would meet monthly on a Sunday evening. She read a list of suggested authors. They may begin with "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" by Marcus Borg. The Prayer Group would meet monthly on a weekday evening for 6 months. They would focus on one's spiritual discipline and the relationship to the divine. They plan to hold an informational and organizational meeting for these two groups Monday, June 1 at 7PM at the Meeting House. For information contact Jeffrey Frisone, 609-617-5914.

Property and Finance will be meeting Thursday, May 7, at 7PM (NOT 7:30PM)

There are two dead trees which need removal but first it needs to be determined whether they are on our property or not. Frank will take a look.

Reports from Affiliated Organizations

Salem Quarterly Meeting George & Dana Houghton reported that the program for the Salem Quarterly Meeting in June will be presented by Seaville Monthly Meeting's Karen Barlow and Lizabeth Shay, describing how intergenerational commitment to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is exciting and enlivening their Meeting.

Friends Village Mike Ayars announced that the May 16th Spring Festival includes an Antique Car Show and other all day fun events.

PYM ANNUAL SESSIONS – SAVE THE DATES!

Summer Sessions: Wed July 29 to Sun August 2, 2009 (De Sales University)

Old Business

Maddie Scuderi won a Peace essay contest. Her winnings of \$250 were donated to the charity of her choice, which was The Disciples Food Pantry in Woodstown. The subject of her essay was Shirley Lock who is an originator and present facilitator of the Food Pantry. Maddie's essay is posted in April's newsletter. Everyone congratulated her on a very beautiful and well written essay about a very special person.

Strawberry Supper still needs volunteers. Please sell tickets. Toy Tyson, Nicki Wilson, Angela Fisher, Priscilla Lamont have tickets. Dana said it is easy and fun to go online and sign up to help. It was noted that all the information that comes from the web sign up, then will be placed on the main list. Special thanks to Jack Mahon for designing this clever and graphic site.

Meeting was concluded at 10:30 with Silent Worship
Terri Fox-Ragone

Minutes submitted by

Next Meeting is Sunday, June 2nd, 9:30 a.m in the Social Room

Committee reports may be emailed to: Frank.Lenik@leicaus.com

.....

Upcoming Dates:

May 16- Friends Village Spring Festival, includes an Antique Car Show

May 17 Peace and Social Justice Committee meet 11:45 a.m. Social Room

May 30- Strawberry Supper

June 5 Peace Vigil 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Center of Woodstown

June 12- Movie Night Will be outdoors, weather permitting, at the Pettit Farm. There will be a campfire. Friends are invited to camp overnight. There will be a scrumptious breakfast in the morning and games during the day. Look for further information.

June 20 Blue Rocks Game in Wilmington. Please tell J Mahon by May 15 your plan

June 21 Closing Meeting 10:30 – 11:30 Outside, weather permitting

June 28- Sept. - Worship Sharing 9:15 – 10: 20a.m. Social Room

July 29 – August 2 Annual Sessions at De Sales University.

OUTDOOR MOVIE BONFIRE CAMP OUT

Friday, June 12-13 Rain or Shine (We have large pavilion)

Fran & Clark Pettit Farm – 145 Marl Road, Harrisonville

856-769-2531 or 856-371-8241

Dinner = Hot dogs, hamburgers & sides. Please bring any dietary needs and your own beverages for the weekend.

Bonfire - S'mores at the fire – if you have a favorite “toasting tool” for marshmallows, bring it along. Also, bring your musical instruments to play at the fire.

Saturday morning we'll have a “Pettit Camp Breakfast” – always plenty of food & usually good !
The rest of Saturday is open for whatever games you bring - or just relax, take a walk, take a nap, whatever swings your hammock !

If you need or wish to, you can set up your tents Wed. or Thursday.

Don't feel that you have to camp to come out. Join us for either or both days.

NOTES ABOUT OUR FRIENDS

In recognition of his humanitarian work, which has brought national and international attention, our very own **Frank Lenik** received the Surveyor of the Year Award from the N. J. Society of Professional Land Surveyors, stating that Frank is “a surveyor with a mission.” Frank attended a conference in St. Louis in 2007. During a chance meeting with the President of Schoenstedt Instruments Co., the two men were inspired to develop a program to send metal detectors to locate buried land mines in areas of conflict around the world. Churches, other caring organizations and individuals donated money, which was matched by Schoenstedt Instruments which has sent over 250 land mine detectors to 25 countries. Many remote villages are now able to dig wells to provide water and make fields safe for children to play due to the use of the mine detectors.

London Grove Meeting April newsletter

A Worthy Cause

At the upcoming Plant Sale on May 9th, our First Day School student Hadley Dole will raise money and awareness for UXO (Unexploded Ordnance Technology for his Kennett High School Graduation Project. Hadley attended the Birmingham Meeting Peace Fair last summer where he met **Frank Lenik** who inspired him to join the cause of cleaning up unexploded land mines and cluster munitions in former battle areas.

Schonstedt, an American manufacturer of surveying equipment, will donate a magnetic detector for every one bought for the purpose of clearing mines. The units cost \$1,029 each and are distributed by the United Nations going to the countries that need them most. London Grove Meeting will function as a no-cost intermediary for contributions and will coordinate equipment donations directly with Schonstedt Instrument to the UN. Any donations may be sent, with a notation that they are for the de-mining project, to London Grove Meeting at 500 W. Street Rd., Kennett Square, PA19348. For more information follow the links “De-mining Initiative” and “A Worthy Cause” at: www.woodstownfriends.org

Joe Gunther, Shawn Chasten and Lucas Brody, coached by **Tom McHugh**, functioned as a team to participate in an Odyssey of The Mind competition representing Woodstown Middle School. OoTM is a non-profit international educational program that provides creative problem solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. It was created by Dr. Samuel Micklus, a professor at Rowan University in 1978. It is a friendly competition in that there is not one right answer and students are rewarded for how they apply their knowledge, skills and talents. As many as seven students work on a team with an adult coach. They choose one of five problems to solve. The teams meet separately to build and practice for many months. The competition levels begin in the area region, the winners from their regional competition go to the state and the winners from the state compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, this year in Ames, Iowa. Joe, Shawn and Lucas, all 5th graders, entered as a Structures Team called Shock Waves. They were to design and build a structure out of balsa wood and glue which would balance and support as much weight as possible, while absorbing shock waves. The students add weights until the structure breaks or an 8 minute time limit is over. Joe, Chasten and Lucas won the Regional competition by setting a new N.J. record of 535 pounds. They went on to win the State competition in Ewing, N.J. with 485 lbs., and hope to compete in the World Odyssey of the Mind Finals the weekend of May 30th in Iowa.

Sheila McHugh, 5th grade, also competed with a team in the Odyssey of the Mind program with Tom McHugh as their coach. Their team participated in the Superstition problem which required them to create and present a performance that includes two documented superstitions, an original superstition made up by the team and the events that caused the original superstition to come to be. They were to include a funny narrator, a costume worn by two team members at the same time, and a stage set. They came in 3rd place in the state for their longterm skit and 1st place for their spontaneous performance.

Fund Raising

Joe Gunther, Shawn Chasten and Lucas Brody are asking for financial support to help them afford air fare to Iowa, room and board expenses for a weekend, May 27th through May 30th and the cost of sending their structure materials and props which totals as approximately \$800 per student. Khalil Gunther is going as their coach. If you can help send this team to a world Odyssey of the Mind competition, please send whatever amount of money you choose to Tammy Gunther, 118 Spring Garden Street, Woodstown.

Special Thanks

Hats off to **Larry Kelly** for repairing the pendulum clock and restoring it to its rightful place in the Social Room.

CONGRATULATIONS

Sophie Ragone is graduating from Smith College on May 17th with a degree in Spanish and Theater. For her thesis she directed a bilingual play by a Cuban-American playwright about the difficulties of assimilating into the U.S. culture. At present, like many of her peers I suspect Sophie will be looking for a job or what's next.

Emily Salema, the daughter of Sally Crane, graduated magna cum laude from Stockton College on May 9th and plans to study in a five year graduate program at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in Boston for a PsyD.

Taylor Wilson-Hill is graduating from Williams College in Massachusetts June 5/6. The day after graduation, Taylor leaves for the University of Leiden in Amsterdam for a research internship.

Jason Mc Dermott graduated from Rollins College in Florida

Maggie Carly, daughter of Sally Lamont, will graduate from 8th grade in Woodstown in June

OBITUARY

Ella Woolman Buzby Richman 1908-2009

Ella Richman, 100 years old, passed away February 14th at the Friends Village in Woodstown. Ella's parents were Anna Pancoast and Maxwell Woolman Buzby and she grew up in a family of twelve children. Ella graduated from Woodstown High School and Glassboro Normal School (now Rowan Univ.). She married Malcolm Richman on August 5, 1933 and they were married 64 years when Malcolm died in 1997. Ella was a lifelong member of Woodstown Friends Meeting.

Ella taught elementary school in Westfield and Harrisonville, took a break to start her own family, two daughters who are Alice Mayer and Anna Taft. She then resumed teaching in Woodstown. She taught first grade and special needs classes for 35 years until her retirement in 1971. Ella was active in the Woodstown Women's Club, the Salem county Chorus, the Woodstown Historical Society and the NJ Teachers Association.

Ella lived life with great enthusiasm, always caring about the lives of others, including all her family and the many students she taught. She was true to her belief that this life and how we live it is important, and her constant message as a teacher and friends was to do your best with whatever life brings your way.

Correction

The Treasurer apologizes for including in the budget letter a list of accounts that includes some items which may be hard to interpret. Below is the Monthly Meeting's complete budget for 2009-2010. The account indicator lines are more fully descriptive than the abbreviated ones in the original letter.

Expense

Best Interests	\$ 600
Building Fund	\$ 1,400
Covenant PYM/SQM	\$ 37,072
Electricity	\$ 990
FDS child care	\$ 2,200
Heat	\$ 5,600
Insurance	\$ 3,450
Misc.	\$ 235
Newsletter	\$ 550
Comm. of Oversight	\$ 350
Peace & Social Justice	\$ 750
Postage & Fees	\$ 450
Property-Grounds	\$ 2,900
Property-Care of MH	\$ 2,700
Property-Maintenance	\$ 1,800
Publications	\$ 80
Religious Educ. Comm.	\$ 350
Telephone	\$ 460
TenThousand Villages	\$ 300
Water/Sewerage	\$ 723
Worship & Ministry	\$ 200
Young Friends	\$ 200
Total Expense	\$ 61,960

Revenue

Collector	\$ 29,153
FDS collections	\$ 830
FidCor Interest	\$ 12,129
Misc. Interest	\$ 402
Morgan Stanley	\$ 9,029
SQM donation	\$ 440
Gifts	\$ 1,490
Annex	\$ 375
Nec. Add. Don.	\$ 8,113
Total Revenue	\$ 61,960