

Minutes

Illinois Yearly Meeting Continuing Committee

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting hosting at the meetinghouse near McNabb, Illinois

Tenth Month 31, 2009

David Finke, Presiding Clerk, Tom Paxson, Assistant Clerk, Pam Kuhn, Recording Clerk

1. The meeting opened in worship at 10:00 am with 40 Friends in attendance.
2. Friends went around the room and introduced themselves.
3. The Continuing Committee reviewed the tentative agenda for today.
4. Dawn Amos, co-Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The final financial reports for fiscal year '09 are in the minute book. These differ from what was presented at annual sessions because of financial activities that happened after sessions but during the same fiscal year including the purchase of the Mills property.
5. As of 10/29/09 our total "cash" assets are \$150,236.59 including a \$1000 loan.
6. The Treasurer reported that everything is in order. All operating and designated funds currently have a positive balance. The restricted Property Improvement Fund currently is carrying a positive balance of \$42,560.16.
7. Judy Jager reported for the Finance Committee (FC). Much of the FC focus has been to oversee financial aspects of the Mills property purchase and needs. A letter went out to the monthly meetings in September announcing the purchase and the decision to ask an increase in the minimum contribution to \$240 per Adult Resident member.
8. Finance Committee appointed the following FC members to the following positions: to the Personnel Committee – Roger Laughlin; to the ad hoc committee to get to know the new property – jointly Margie Haworth and Pam Kuhn; to the Budget Review Committee – Sandy Huntley.
9. Since there seem to be certain expenses and income that unavoidably come in after the fiscal year ends, Finance Committee will recommend for action at the next annual sessions that, as a practice, the financial books be kept open for four to six weeks beyond the end of the fiscal year. FC will request that the financial reports be brought annually to the Fall Continuing Committee for final approval.
10. Finance Committee wants to express much appreciation to the committees and individual Friends for their involvement and active support of the budgeting process.
11. Finance Committee recommends the following minute. "Illinois Yearly Meeting extends our thanks to our Clear Creek Monthly Meeting Friends for their prompt actions and personal generosity in securing the Mills Farmhouse property this spring. This enabled Illinois Yearly Meeting to proceed with confidence at our business sessions and promptly purchase the property afterwards. Thank you, Friends!" Approved. This will be sent to Clear Creek Friends by David Finke, Presiding Clerk.
12. Finance Committee asks Friends to hold Nancee Miller in prayer. As her illness continues, Nancee, Ashlee, and all the Huntley and Miller family appreciate the support and love of those of us who hold her dear.
13. Beth Schobernd reported for the committee referred to in Minute 52 from annual sessions as the ad hoc committee to get to know the new property and announced a new name for the committee, the ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property. Approved.
14. The committee wrote the following description of their charge. "The ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property serves as a forum among and between the Environmental Concerns Committee, the Finance Committee, the Maintenance and Planning committee, the Site Envisioning and Development Committee, the Stewards, and Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, gathering and sharing information as an aid to increasing transparency as we more fully integrate the Mills property into the yearly meeting." Friends accepted this description.

15. The ad hoc Committee for the Mills Property expects that the property will not be generally available for lodging, committee meetings, retreats, or other purposes by the yearly meeting for at least a year. The committee is planning to meet again on 2/20/2010.
16. Carol Bartles and Neil Mesner reported for the Maintenance and Planning Committee (M&P) and the Stewards. M&P recommends the following mission statement. "The Committee of Maintenance and Planning assembles and works together to help sustain the spirit of our present community of Friends, those who came before us and those who come after us. Our primary role is stewardship of the historic Illinois Yearly Meeting House and campus and additional purchased property, supporting landscape through preservation, maintenance and informing the Yearly Meeting of building and maintenance options as way opens. We seek to work in a manner that embodies the Quaker conception of right building, simplicity and integrity that honors our earthly resources and promotes peace." This will be brought to annual sessions for approval.
17. The Maintenance and Planning Committee will hold a visioning workshop in First Month, 2010, concerning the use of the Mills property. Maurine Pyle will facilitate.
18. The Maintenance and Planning Committee has set priorities for work to be done on the Mills Property. The highest priority is to prepare the house for use as a place for winter worship of Clear Creek Meeting this winter. The next priority is to clean up the site in preparation for an evaluation of needs and uses by the yearly meeting.
19. The Maintenance and Planning Committee has already removed all items on the Mills property that could be useful to someone and set up a "garage sale." In addition, the stewards hired (as temporary ILYM employees) members of the Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage Community from Missouri to clean out the chicken house, barn, and milking parlor. They have also dismantled the south lean-to off of the barn and removed seven dumpsters of debris. The Stewards along with the Environmental Concerns Committee and others have been cleaning up the landscape removing unwanted plants, brush, and unwanted trees. The house is being professionally rewired with recommended fire, safety and emergency features integrated. Clear Creek Friends have cleaned up all the rooms in the house, removed detritus left by previous owners, stripped some of the wallpaper, removed paneling, etc.
20. Tasks on the Mills property scheduled in the near future include plasterwork in the house and replacing the existing patio which is causing water damage to the house. The Maintenance and Planning Committee is also moving forward on a professional Capital Asset Management Plan for the entire property (new and old). M&P has already made a list of potential improvements which they will put on the website.
21. Other items on the Mills property that are to be addressed at some point include painting, work in the kitchen and bathrooms with an eye on accessibility, and an entrance to the building that is wheelchair accessible.
22. The Mills property is now legally titled as owned by ILYM. Putnam County has approved the conversion of the house and land as exempt from property tax because we are a religious institution. The property is currently covered by insurance. Church Mutual Insurance Company has visited the property and is working on the revised insurance premium for the future.
23. The Stewards are moving forward to complete the purchase of the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre property to the south of the meetinghouse which will square off the yearly meeting property.
24. The co-Treasurer reported there is enough money in the Property Improvement Fund to cover the initial costs identified by the Stewards and the Maintenance and Planning Committee.
25. The Continuing Committee raised concerns about safety on the Mills property. The Stewards will respond to these.
26. The Stewards invite groups of Friends to come and work on the new property for a day or two. Specific tasks have been identified. Contact them.
27. The Continuing Committee expresses profound thanks for all the work that has been done.

28. Chip Rorem reported for the Site Envisioning and Development Committee (SE&D). SE&D will be working closely with the Maintenance and Planning Committee and the Environmental Concerns Committee to divide work and responsibilities for the future. The visioning workshop should help SE&D develop a better understanding of how to move forward. All Friends are encouraged to attend this workshop.
29. The Site Envisioning and Development Committee's next committee meeting will focus on development and fundraising. The committee awaits the Capital Asset Management Plan created by the Maintenance and Planning Committee and other costs identified by the Environmental Concerns Committee and will fold these into their next committee meeting for consideration. Also, after the visioning workshop, SE&D will review the outcome and confer with M&P as to how to move forward with organizing our next steps.
30. Roy Treadway reported for the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). ECC continues to work on ongoing projects on the entire property. A full report is on the ILYM webpage.
31. The Environmental Concerns Committee held its Fall retreat and spent much of that time working on enhancing the natural landscape of the Mills property and preparing guidelines for the care and development of its natural features in the future. Also the committee is identifying trees that may need to be removed for safety reasons. ECC plans a burn of the ILYM Prairie in early- to mid-November when favorable weather conditions are present.
32. The Continuing Committee asked the Environmental Concerns Committee to give to Stewards some principles and guidelines on enhancing the landscape of the property.
33. The Environmental Concerns Committee, in response to Minute 67 from annual sessions, agreed to continue their practice of having the representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness also be a member of that committee.
34. Mariellen Gilpin reported for the Ministry and Advancement Committee. Twenty-one ILYM Friends attended the web workshop recently. There will be follow-up to various meetings to see what support is needed and perhaps provide a website template.
35. The Ministry and Advancement Committee created and will be distributing to monthly meetings a flyer called "Queries for Reflecting on the Health of the Meeting." The document will also be available on the ILYM website.
36. The Ministry and Advancement Committee is working on how to support meetings as they help Friends with issues of death and dying.
37. The Continuing Committee feels held in our work today by elders in the yearly meeting.
38. Elke Narkiewicz reported for the Religious Education Committee. Friends from seven different monthly meetings gathered recently with two members from FGC's Religious Education Committee, for a workshop on Godly Play/ Faith & Play. ILYM's Religious Education Committee was grateful for the participation and enthusiasm of Friends who took part in and supported this workshop. More information about the program is available at www.faithandplay.org.
39. Sarah Pavlovic reported for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has received several resignations from Friends who are no longer able to serve. The committee asks that we accept their resignations with gratitude for the service they have given the yearly meeting. The Nominating Committee appreciates receiving notice of resignations and respectfully requests that committee clerks notify a member of Nominating Committee when they become aware of resignations. Please note the following: Patricia McMillen resigning from Peace Resources Committee after March, 2010; Robin Johnson resigning from Maintenance and Planning; Julia Pantoga resigning from Friends Peace Teams representative, and from QVSTC as committee clerk, both effective December 2009; and Nora Vera-Godwin resigning as Reading Clerk. Approved.
40. The Nominating Committee recommends the following Friends for appointment effective immediately: Patricia McMillan, Clerk of the Handbook Committee (temporary appointment); Joan Pine to Handbook Committee; Tom Fairbank to Publications Committee;

John Hackman as a representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness; Ted Kuhn as ILYM's representative to the corporation of the American Friends Service Committee. Approved.

41. The yearly meeting has charged the Nominating Committee to bring forward three names for the newly formed Personnel Committee (see annual sessions Minute 39). The committee names two Friends, Roxy Jacobs and Valerie Lester. Approved. The committee will search for one additional member and name one person as clerk. The Nominating Committee will work on making the terms staggered.
42. The Nominating Committee recommends the following minute on nomination of clerks of standing committees. The Continuing Committee understands that this will be used as a guideline during this year. "Clerks of ILYM standing committees should be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee has followed the practice of recommending the clerks of those committees and submitting these in writing to the body in annual session or, as needed, to Continuing Committee. When there is an urgent need to replace a committee clerk, the Nominating Committee may ask the committee to discern one from among its members. The committee should then ask Nominating Committee to bring his/her name to the next session (Continuing Committee or annual sessions) for confirmation. Outgoing clerks or standing committee members may also make recommendations to Nominating Committee regarding a committee clerk, based on their sense of the current needs of the committee and their acquaintance with the gifts and commitment to serve of the committee's members. Nominating Committee should prayerfully consider all such recommendations from committee members and should bring forward these names only when Nominating Committee has achieved a sense of clearness." A minute on this matter may be brought to annual sessions.
43. A Friend read the report from Patricia McMillen for the Handbook Committee. The Handbook Committee recommends the following changes be made immediately to the Handbook.
44. In place of the existing description of the Finance Committee, a description approved at annual sessions and copied verbatim will be used. (See Minute 28). Approved.
45. A new description of Personnel Committee will be added. (See Minute 39.) "The Personnel Committee will create consistent and legal policies for our paid staff. The Committee should refer to the ad hoc Personnel Committee Exploratory Committee report on page 35 of the 2009 Minute Book. The committee shall be composed of a representative from each of the relevant governing committees (Ministry and Advancement, Youth Oversight, and Administrative Coordinator Oversight Committee), a representative from the Finance Committee, and three independent members one of whom should be named clerk of the committee. The Nominating Committee shall bring forward names of three independent members to serve staggered terms. The Finance and relevant governing committees are requested to bring forward names of representatives from those committees." Approved.
46. The Handbook Committee proposes adding the following clarification to the list of publications in Handbook section one, page 9. "Illinois Yearly Meeting Website. Several ILYM committees have posted relevant documents on the website that do not appear in the Handbook. To access these documents, go to www.ilym.org." Approved.
47. David Finke gave a concern about accessibility from the Presiding Clerk's desk. In 2007, ILYM began to explore issues of accessibility by forming first a working party under the care of Maintenance and Planning. More recently the working party has not been mentioned but it appears accessibility issues are still being addressed. The Continuing Committee doesn't want to lose information that has been gathered already. The Continuing Committee directs that the Presiding Clerk along with others whom he selects prepare a proposal for the Spring Continuing Committee to form some sort of a review committee or an ad hoc committee to keep issues of accessibility in the forefront, review past finding about concerns in accessibility, perhaps write queries to committees, and research resources for accessibility.

48. Chuck Hutchcraft reported for the Peace Resources Committee (PRC). At annual sessions the question arose about including ILYM representatives to AFSC and FCNL to serve on Peace Resources Committee (Minute 67). Using the yearly meeting Presiding Clerk as an example, PRC sees ex officio membership as a role that may speak to the issues being discussed while not being required to undertake full participation in all of the meetings, retreats, and projects of the committee. In this sense PRC recommends that not more than one person from the ILYM's AFSC representation and not more than one person from the FCNL representation be asked to serve on PRC ex officio. The Continuing Committee felt that Minute 67 was a suggestion rather than a mandate. PRC will continue to work on enhancing communication between the different bodies and bring suggestions to annual sessions.
49. The Peace Resources Committee recently had a retreat at the Evanston meetinghouse. The theme was Spirituality and Peacemaking. PRC continues to explore and develop tools for peacemaking as well as a continued dedication to developing a sense of what the Peace House on the Prairie may look like. The committee is reconfiguring the Peace Testimony workshop be a stand-alone workshop that could be used by meetings without a member of PRC present. The committee is working to restart a blog on peace topics.
50. Chris Goode reported for Chicago South who will be organizing FUN (children's program) at annual sessions in 2010. The afternoon and evening activities have volunteers, but they are still looking for someone to deliver the snack each morning and teachers for the three age groups in the mornings. Friends should contact Sue Styer. Friends who volunteer do not need to be from Chicago South. Chicago South has the least number of Friends to draw on.
51. Chicago North is doing Site Prep. There was no report at this time.
52. Nancy Duncan reported for Blue River Quarterly on food and program for annual sessions 2010. Zach Schobernd will be our chef again. The program theme will be *Seeking and Sharing our Spiritual Home*. Wednesday night Friends will be sharing on our spiritual journeys about finding a spiritual home. On Thursday night there will be a presentation of different Quaker organizations. On Friday night we will have our traditional square dancing. On Saturday night, Phil Gulley will give a talk. Tom Paxson will be doing the Plummer Lecture. There are still a few volunteers needed for serving food.
53. Paul Buckley reported as Field Secretary on continuing visits to meetings and other activities. He sees a need for outreach and has available pamphlets and books on outreach for meetings to use. He recommends meetings look at how visitors can find us and how we can meet their needs before they come through our door. Meetings should consider having materials in Spanish and try to remove Quaker jargon when we speak to visitors.
54. A Friend read the report from John Knox concerning the Peace Tax Fund. With the documents signed by ILYM officials in late June, all of the funds of the Illinois Yearly Meeting Peace Tax Fund have been successfully transferred from the two old ShoreBank accounts to one new interest-bearing account. Its current balance is \$7,318.60. The next steps are to put most of the money into CDs to earn more interest and coordinate online access with the ILYM Treasurers.
55. Future plans of the Peace Tax Fund Committee are to reconstruct the makeup of the \$7,318.60 and to discern how much of the principle and accumulated interest can be dispersed to worthy causes. Before annual sessions the committee plans to be fully caught up in all record-keeping; have a system set up to do all the annual paperwork and reporting that is called for in the 1989 Guidelines of the Fund; to resume the Fund's annual practice of donating the interest to one or more not-for-profit organizations whose missions help promote peace in the world and perhaps to promote actively the fund to Friends who might feel led to protest war using the Fund.
56. Sarah Pavlovic read a report from Peter Albright for the Youth Oversight Committee. High school teens donated \$2,400.00 to Project Lakota this summer. The committee thanks yearly meeting Friends for helping Teens by purchasing T-shirts or bags and/ or making their own

donation to Project Lakota. This year there will be quakes on Veterans Day weekend at Downers Grove meetinghouse, the Martin Luther King weekend at Evanston meetinghouse, Memorial Day work weekend at McNabb and annual sessions also at McNabb. There have been difficulties taking down the teepee this year because of the weather. The committee and Stewards are working on this.

57. Tom Paxson reported on our concern with the Tamms Correctional Facility as outlined in Minute 38 at annual sessions. As Presiding Clerk, Tom wrote to Illinois Governor Quinn on the issue and received a response from the executive assistant to the director of Illinois Department of Corrections. Tom reported on some reforms that are being made at the facilities. Meetings that may like to get involved with this should go to the Tamms Year Ten web site, www.year10.org.
58. Dawn Amos reported for the Publications Committee. Our longest minute book ever is now published with a bright blue cover. The committee urges its active use, and full distribution within meetings.
59. The next Continuing Committee will be at Columbia Monthly Meeting on third month 6, 2010.
60. The Continuing Committee is deeply grateful for being hosted by our oldest monthly meeting, Clear Creek Friends, including a wonderful lunch. You are really awesome.
61. The meeting closed at 4:30 pm with worship and 33 Friends present.

Present at the meeting: (Note this list doesn't include children whose joy was present around us though not at the meeting. Some Friends may not have signed the sign-in sheet and may have been inadvertently left off of this list.)

Dawn Amos (Southern Illinois), Carol Bartles (Clear Creek), Paul Buckley (Field Secretary), Helen Dickinson (Oak Park), Janice Domanik (Lake Forest), Kay Drake (Clear Creek), Nancy Duncan (St Louis), Charley Earp (Northside), Ted Ehnle (Northside), David Finke (Columbia), Nancy Finke (Columbia), Cathy Garra (Lake Forest), Mariellen Gilpin (Urbana-Champaign), Chris Goode (Downers Grove), Sharon Haworth (Urbana-Champaign), Sandy Huntley (Duneland), Chuck Hutchcraft (Lake Forest), Judy Jager (Evanston), Margaret Katranides (St Louis), Pam Kuhn (Lake Forest), Brad Laird (South Bend), Hannah Laird (South Bend), Peter Lasersohn (Urbana-Champaign), Roger Laughlin (Evanston), Virginia "Jinny" Laughlin (Evanston), Pat Lucas (Duneland), Janet Means Underhill (Lake Forest), Grayce Mesner (Clear Creek), Neil Mesner (Clear Creek), Elke Narkiewicz (Spoon River), Tim Narkiewicz (Spoon River), Tom Paxson (St Louis), Chip Rorem (57th St), Beth Schobernd (Clear Creek), Monica Tetzlaff (South Bend), Roy Treadway (Bloomington-Normal), Sue Tursman (Evanston), Betty Wolf (Clear Creek), Carol Zimmerman (57th Street), and Guest: Bronwyn Griffith Mills, (Marquette, MI).