

10.23.10

Illinois Yearly Meeting  
Site Envisioning Committee

### **Report to Continuing Committee at the meetinghouse in Evanston**

We met on September 22, 2010 at the 57<sup>th</sup> St meetinghouse in Chicago. We felt a need to center down and become comfortable with the responsibilities of our committee.

We identified what we felt to be the influences on the site envisioning process:

- The emerging list of new financial obligations that exist since our acquisition of the new six acre property.
- The ongoing maintenance list prepared by the Maintenance and Planning Committee, much of which is embodied in the Capital Assets Management Plan (CAMP).
- The vision of the Environmental Concerns Committee.
- The emerging focus on programs by the Ministry and Advancement Committee.
- The ongoing focus on programs and activities of the Peace Resources Committee.
- The concerns of the Finance Committee
- The absence of a Development Committee

We felt a need to address this list of visions and concerns. We discussed how that might be accomplished. We pondered a design charette, tours of the site, and joint committee meetings. We pondered the concept of an on-site caretaker.

We met again on October 21, 2010 on a phone conference call. Our thoughts on where to proceed had expanded. We compiled a list of committees and meetings that might help us in understanding how to proceed. We were inspired by the example of the Environmental Concerns Committee and their statement on Sustainability and Landscape Guidelines for the property, and hoped that other groups might offer similar discernment from the perspective of their mission, in the form of a written document. Maintenance and Planning has compiled a substantial list of projects and we hope to fold those projects into the overall vision. The working list of groups we hope to learn from follows.

- Environmental Concerns Committee (mentioned above)
- Maintenance an Planning Committee (mentioned above)
- Ministry and Advancement Committee
- Peace Resources Committee
- Finance Committee
- Religious Education Committee
- Quaker Volunteer Service
- Young Adult Friends
- Monthly Meetings

We felt we should develop queries and identify a process whereby this collective of input might identify direction. We felt that this body of information might be collected and provide opportunities for “cross-pollination”. We felt that a gathering to exchange and listen to ideas about use and development of the site might be arranged for January or

February, and gathering to tour the site during Memorial Day Work Weekend might be a good time to share these developing ideas and integrate them with the land and buildings.

We then asked whether or not it was time for a fresh survey. Matthew Smith did us a great service when we last surveyed our membership. The resulting top priority of his survey was to restore the old meetinghouse. We've done that now and many of the other things listed in that survey. We have built six new cabins and have established a junior yearly meeting house for our young Friends. We have yet to build a new kitchen and dining hall. We have yet to build a dorm. We have also exceeded that survey by acquiring six adjacent acres of property and a handful of buildings.

Is it time to again to gather the thoughts of the yearly meeting before proceeding with a new survey? Might this time consumed by the new effort to collect ideas give us time to better understand the obligations that we've made through our new acquisitions? Is it time to center in the spirit before we depart onto new paths?

We have scheduled three more meetings. The first is December 11, 2010. The second is January 22 or 29, 2011. The third is February 19, 2011. We are firming up the locations.

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Rorem  
Clerk