

Middlebury Friends Meeting

August/
September
2019

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Minutes of July 21, 2019

Minutes of August 18, 2019

AUGUST 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 [○]	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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SEPTEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 [○]
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 [●]
29	30	31				

“I always say, dare to struggle, dare to grin.”

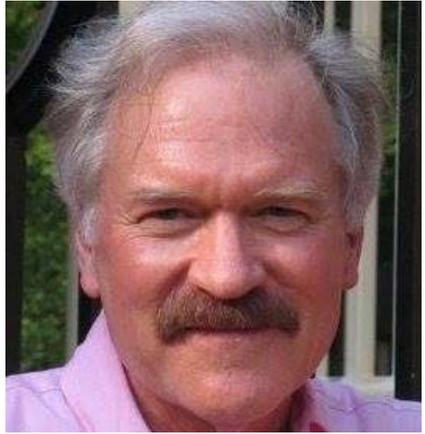
— WAVY GRAVY

QUAKER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every first Saturday	10:30-11:00 AM	ICAN Climate Vigil. New location on Cross Street Bridge
Aug. 3 through 8, NEYM at Castleton		
Aug 11		MFM summer picnic at Lake Dunmore; lunch at 12:30
Aug 11	9:00 AM	Earthcare meeting, Havurah House
Aug 15	8:30 AM	ICAN meeting, Weybridge Congregational Church
Aug 30	5:30 PM	potluck dinner and program, Caring for the Earth from the Heart, Putnams' house
Sept 6 though 8		
Sept 9,	4 PM	W&S committee at Cheryl's house
Sept 14	9:30-4	Vision for Vermont Summit, Bread Loaf Campus
Sept 15	8:30 AM	Meeting for Business
Sept 22	11:30 AM	Threshing Session
Sept 28	1-5 PM	Carbon Calculator Workshop, Addison County Regional Planning Office, Seminary St. Middlebury
Sept 29		Welcoming potluck lunch at the home of Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox, after the rise of Meeting
Oct 26		VT Interfaith Power and Light Conference, Middlebury Congregational Church

EARTH PROFILE

NORMAN TJSSEM



When did you first become aware of the need to take special care of the Earth?

Reading my grandfather's National Geographic magazines as a young boy. My grandfather was an Iowa farmer and strong advocate of contour farming as a way to conserve soil and prevent runoff. His frequent use of the word "conservation" became part of my vocabulary.

What are some of the first actions that you took to care for the Earth?

I joined the Boy Scouts in an effort to be in the "wilderness" and in nature as Native Americans were. We learned "clean camping" skills and "leave no trace" conduct. Summer trips to the Colorado Rockies and the Black Hills of South Dakota cemented my love for pristine wilderness. My family ethic was "do not waste things" and we lived simply.

What are some of the people or events or other sources that have influenced your attitude toward caring for the Earth?

See Above. Ansel Adams, Scott Nearing, The Whole Earth Catalogue, H. D. Thoreau, Bill McKibben, Rachel Carson. Sojourns in Europe, Central America, and China impressed on me how precious were natural resources, wild space, animal/plant habitat, and how critical it was to curtail rampant population expansion and urban pollution.

What actions do you take in your daily life that demonstrate caring for the earth?

Careful recycling, composting, careful forest trail maintenance, guiding and outdoor education, solar power; retrofitting; heat-pump technology to reduce my carbon footprint. Contributions to earth conscious advocacy organizations.

What actions do you take in your working life that demonstrate caring for the Earth, past or present?

Teaching responsible eco-conscious living as an adjunct to my regular classroom curriculum. Attending and working for schools with eco-conscious cultures. Supporting and advocating for federal, state, and local policies, ordinances, and statutes that protect the environment.

What ideas do you have for how you will carry on this work in the future?

Working to develop a persuasive narrative that will help citizens of all socio-economic and political orientations the value of stewardship of the environment and protection of the earth's future.

Thank you, Norm!



Monthly Meeting for Business

21 July, 2019

Clerk: Tom Baskett

Recording Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Present were Grace McGrath, Tom Dickinson, Brud Leedom, Joe Garren, Grace Seale, Lianna Tennial, Fran Putnam, and Spence Putnam.

Tom opened the meeting with silence and a poem by William Wordsworth.

The clerk opened the meeting with silence and queries of corporate discernment from NEYM.

19:07:01 We approved the minutes of the June 23 meeting for business.

19:07:02 We appointed Peter Schenck and Jean Rosenberg as our representatives to the NEYM annual sessions.

19:07:03 The clerk reported that a clearness committee was held for Lianna Tennial and Don Peabody to report to NWQM that Lianna and Don are clear to become members of the NWQM Interim Committee. Pastoral Care committee has bought gas cards for their use in commuting to these meetings, as MFM wishes to support their work with the QM.

19:07:04 The treasurer reported. All statements in this report are as of July 20, 2019. From June 23 through July 20, the Meeting had member donations of \$615. From June 23 through July 20, Meeting expenditures totaled \$533.33, including \$133.33 for Children's Program Coordinator, \$200 for honorarium for Marcelle Martin and \$200 for Quaker Programs (to support a Friend's attendance in a School of the Spirit program). When these checks clear, the balance in the checking account will be \$6078.42. The current balance of the Rachel Carey Harper fund is \$490.

19:07:05 **The Earthcare committee reported.** Fran and Spence Putnam will hold a potluck at their home around the idea of “Caring for the earth from the Heart,” led by Ruah Swennerfelt at 5:30 pm on Friday, August 30.

The TLC Personal Carbon Reduction Workshop is scheduled for Sept. 28, 1-5 PM at the Addison County regional Planning Commission office on Seminary St. There is interest from other faith communities to attend this workshop.

The committee will meet on August 11, 9 am at Havurah house.

The VT Interfaith Power and Light conference will be in Middlebury this year, at the Congregational Church. Molly Anderson will be one of the keynote speakers.

19:07:06 **Worship & Study Committee report.** Our next Friendly Forum is planned for Sept. 22., to be on Quakers and Money. (This Friendly Forum was postponed later in the meeting, probably until October.)

19:07:07 **Fellowship Committee.** The MFM summer picnic will be held on Aug. 11, at Branbury Beach on Lake Dunmore, with potluck shared lunch at 12:30. There will be no hospitality after mfw that day, so Friends can go directly to the park.

19:07:08 **After some discussion about the recent discussion on our listserve** concerning the July 12 Lights for Liberty demonstration in Middlebury, we decided to hold a threshing session, open to all meeting participants. We will address the issues of how we support each other in our concerns including when we have disagreements about them, how we can make sure the use of our listserve in such discussions is caring and respectful, and more generally how we as Friends confront issues of importance in the world.

This will be held on Sept. 22, after the rise of meeting. A committee of Spence Putnam, Grace Seale, Tom Baskett, and Jean Rosenberg will plan for the session.

The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.



Called Meeting for Business

18 August, 2019

Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Recording Clerk: Jean Rosenberg

Present were Tom Baskett, Ruah Swennerfelt, Louis Cox, Priscilla Baker, Karen Nawn Fahey, and visitors Holly and Steve from Vassalboro Meeting in Maine.

19/8/1 Having received a request from several Middlebury Friends that Middlebury

Friends Meeting act as a financial pass-through for funds received for the Vision for Vermont project, we approve and authorize the MFM treasurer to handle funds associated with the Vision for Vermont activities, until the end of the 2019 calendar year, with the possibility to be renewed for more time in 2020 if needed. We find that this request meets our criteria for this kind of assistance, since Vision for Vermont serves our non-profit concerns and mission, cannot perform this function itself at this time, and has a number of Middlebury Friends involved in its activities.

Vision for Vermont, inspired by the visit from Friend George Lakey that MFM initiated and partnered with, on September 14 will hold its second gathering of Vermonters to explore, envision, and work toward a Vermont that works for all. The goal of this year's gathering is to hear the voices of Vermonters who are often marginalized or not heard, including people of color, people with different abilities, the LGBTQ community, and indigenous people.

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Editor: Win Colwell

Co-Clerks

Tom Baskett 989-7034
Jean Rosenberg 388-6453

Recording Clerk

Lucy McKeon
462-3039

Treasurer

Karen Nawn-Fahey
PO Box 1026
Middlebury, VT 05753

Pastoral Care Committee

Caring for one another in a loving community is an important part of our life as a Meeting.
Call any member of Pastoral Care to share a concern or need.

Wendy Goodwin (385-1900)
Norm Tjossem (388-0338)

Brud Leedom (558-1005)
Grace McGrath (388-6576)

Faith Lowell (388-3056)

We welcome your submissions! — winslow.colwell@gmail.com
News of Quakerly Interest — lucym@shoreham.net

MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

PO Box 1026

Middlebury, VT 05753

Meeting for Worship 10 AM every First Day

Havarah House, 56 N. Pleasant St. (Rt.7), Middlebury

www.middleburyquakers.org

Please send newsletter submissions to the address above or to
winslow.colwell@gmail.com