

Friends Camp Clerk's Report
NEYM Sessions – 2023

Dear Friends,

This report follows a meaningful and productive year for the Friends Camp Committee. At the time of writing, we are celebrating the start of a fully enrolled summer season. We are particularly grateful for this milestone, after the challenges of offering camp in the midst of the pandemic. This year our committee has experienced joys and successes in fundraising, maintaining our buildings and grounds, and in strengthening our relationships to each other and our commitment to the work of stewarding Camp. We are particularly excited about the visioning process and governance review that we have engaged in alongside NEYM. As we emerge from two difficult years and navigate changes in committee leadership, it has been particularly affirming to recognize the love for and commitment to Camp that exists within our committee, NEYM, and the wider Quaker community.

This year, our committee was composed of 15 members with diverse connections to Camp. Committee members include camper parents, former campers and counselors, and folks who are engaged in Quaker community. The committee includes members living throughout the New England region, including several in Maine and local to Friends Camp. Our committee met quarterly, including one in-person meeting on Camp grounds. Each of our committee members is involved in at least one sub-committee, including Development, Finance, Health and Safety, Personnel, Buildings and Grounds, and Nominating. Our sub-committees are active and engage in monthly meetings throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

This year we have also experienced bittersweet changes in leadership. In September 2022, our long-standing and much beloved Clerk, John Reuthe, stepped down from the role. I am personally grateful for all of John's care and support as I have transitioned into the role of Clerk this year. As of our September 2023 meeting, three members will step away from the committee and two new members will join us. This September, our treasurer, Robb Spivey, will transition out of his role and Kate Monahan will begin a new term as treasurer. Our committee is profoundly grateful to both the outgoing and incoming treasurer for their work attending to Friends Camp's economic well-being. We are also preparing to support members of Friends Camp staff as they assume temporary leadership roles while our Director, Anna Hopkins, is away on parental leave. Our committee is deeply appreciative of the planning, leadership, flexibility, and commitment of the Friends Camp staff!

Finally, it is worth noting that there is rarely a meeting where committee members do not express gratitude for Anna and amazement at all she is able to accomplish! She is a thoughtful, loving, grounded, and enthusiastic advocate for Camp. Our committee and the camp community benefit immensely from her work. Thank you for reading and I wish all a good summer and a joyful time at Sessions!

In appreciation,
Natalie Bornstein
Friends Camp Committee Clerk