

DRAFT Minutes
Permanent Board Meeting
NEYM Sessions, Castleton VT
August 5, 2023

PB 23-28 : Opening Worship

Friends opened with a period of worship.

PB 23-29: Clerk's Welcome and Introduction

Leslie Manning, PB Clerk, welcomed Friends to 2023 NEYM Annual Sessions

The recording clerk called the roll:

Bold = present in the room; underline = present on Zoom,

Leslie Manning (PB Clerk), **Susan Davies** (PB Recording Clerk), **Kimberly Allen**, Thomas Brenner, **Deana Chase**, **Martin Forsythe**, **Christopher Gant**, **Elizabeth Hansen**, **Meg Klepack**, **Frances Lightsom**, Edward Mair, **Christopher McCandless**, **Jean McCandless**, Bob O'Connor, **Carole Rein**, **Martha Schwope**, **Liesa Stamm**, **Willa Taber**, Eleanor Warnock, **Diane Weinholtz**, **Donn Weinholtz**, **Mary Zwirner**

Ex-Officio: **Scott Drysdale** (Finance Clerk), **Sarah Gant** (Meeting Accompaniment clerk), **Rebecca Leuchak** (Presiding Clerk), **Noah Merrill** (YM Secretary), **Robert Murray** (YM Treasurer)

Regrets: Elizabeth Reuthe (Secretary's Supervisor), Peter Bishop, Darcy Drayton, Joyce Gibson, Ian Harrington, Newell Isbell Shinn, Roger Jasaitis, Anna Radocchia, John Reuthe, Aaron Sakulich (resigned), Morgan Wilson, Kathleen Wooten

Visitors: Marian Dalton, Bruce Neumann, Melody Brazo, Becky Phipps, Robert McClellan, Catherine Simmons, Linda Jenkins, Emily Savin, Johanna Jackson, JT Dorr, Meredith Collins, Pat Moyer, Tom Vargo, Gail Melix, **LouAnne McDonald**, **Macci Schmidt**, **Adam Korhman**, **Carl Williams**, **Jennie Isbell Shinn**, **Frederick Martin**, **Jeremiah Dickinson**, **Susannah McCandless**, **Megan Jensen**, **Minga Claggett-Borne**, **Phil Veatch**, **Ben Warner**, **Travis Belcher**, **Polly Attwood**, **Mary Link**, **Betsy Roper**, **Kristina Keefe Perry**, **David Coletta**, **Holly Baldwin**, **Peter Blood Patterson**, **Wendy Sanford**, **Susannah Schell**, **Kim West**, **Jackie Stillwell**, **Jonathan Vogel Borne**, **Lynn Taber**, **Mey Hasbrook**, **Lisa Graustein**, **Melissa Foster**, **Michelle Wright**, **Em McManamy**, **Alan Sifferlin**, **Janice Sifferlin**, **Elaine Emily**, **Janet Hough**, **Jennifer Smith**, **Sarah Smith**

PB 23-30: Minutes from the PB meeting of May 20, 2023 at Hartford, CT

Friends approved, with revisions

PB 23-31: YM Secretary's Report (report appended)

Noah Merrill, Yearly Meeting Secretary, brought for PB approval the outline for a visioning and design process for 2024 YM Sessions and beyond (appended). This process seeks to lift up and carefully and collectively discern "What do Friends need from Sessions?" For important practical, long-range planning reasons the visioning process needs to be underway in the fall of 2023 in order to be well positioned for 2024. The Secretary clarified the request for PB to first approve, in principle, the arc of the process, with PB approval of later stages in steps. Any significant changes envisioned for Sessions 2025 will need to be approved by Sessions 2024, hence the need to begin the process this fall.

1. Will PB affirm the need to begin this process for the fall of 2023, or before January 2024?
2. Will PB approve initiation of a year-long, multi-stage visioning/exploration process, to prepare for Sessions 2025?

FRIENDS APPROVED, with one Friend requesting to stand aside.

PB 23-32: Request for approval to re-apply to Friends Foundation for the Aging (justification appended)

Consistent with the YM grants policy, the Secretary requested that PB Friends approve YM applying for continued funding from the Foundation on Aging. It is PB's charge to approve the purpose; approval of the details is not sought.

FRIENDS APPROVED

PB 23-33: Presiding Clerk's (no written report)

Rebecca Leuchak, Presiding Clerk, expressed care and concern for victims of Vermont flooding damage and other weather impacts. She also encouraged Friends here at Sessions to be sensitive to the needs of vulnerable Friends due to the ongoing risks of COVID, encouraging mask-wearing, hand washing and other preventive measures. The Presiding Clerk expressed gratitude for the long and faithful service of Leslie Manning as Permanent Board clerk, and informed Friends of some of the items that will come before meeting for business at the 2023 Sessions.

PB 23-34 Naming Committee report (report appended)

Beth Hansen, reporting for the Naming Committee, thanked the other members of the Naming Committee, reminding Friends this is a new process, in only the 2nd year. The Naming Committee is bringing these names to serve on the Nominating Committee.

For approval to Class of 2026:

Martha Schwope (Wellesley)

Kathy Malin, (Smithfield)

Christopher Gant (Beacon Hill) for help with a Nominating Committee special project

Jeremiah Dickinson, member of the Naming Committee, brought forward as recording clerk for the Naming Committee, the name of :

Beth Hansen

FRIENDS APPROVED these names

PB23-35: Nominating Committee report (report appended)

Jackie Stillwell, Nominating Committee clerk, reminded Friends that the current nominating process involves a time for hearing concerns, and hearing affirmations, of Friends who are candidates for service.

Jackie Stillwell brought for approval for YM Recording Clerk, to start immediately, the name of:

Susannah McCandless (Burlington FM),

FRIENDS APPROVED

And for Permanent Board Recording Clerk, to start at close of 2023 Sessions,

Willa Taber (Fresh Pond)

FRIENDS APPROVED

PB23-35: Youth Ministries Committee Purpose, Procedures, and Composition document

Jackie Stillwell also brought for approval the Purpose, Procedures, and Composition document for the Youth Ministries Committee. The document is prepared for approval at Sessions. The Nominating Committee is requesting PB approval to send to Sessions.

FRIENDS APPROVED

PB 23-36: Recommendation from Salem Quarter for Three Rivers Worship Group

Because Leslie Manning, PB clerk had served on the discernment committee for Three Rivers worship group, Susan Davies, PB Recording clerk, stepped in to clerk this minute.

PB took up the recommendation of the Salem Quarter to approve Fresh Pond's recommendation that Three Rivers Worship Group become a monthly meeting. The report from Salem Quarter is available in the Advanced Documents for the June 4, 2022, meeting at p. 34.

PB minutes documenting previous discernment and background are as follows:

PB 22-47: Salem Quarter Report and Proposals

The report from the Salem Quarterly Meeting (SQM) presents the discernment process, background SQM minutes, and request for PB approval of two items pertaining to the Quarter's proposed period of Sabbath.

PB 22-47.1 PB approval is requested regarding the SQM proposal for the NEYM Legacy Gift Committee to administer grant funds that have been held and distributed by SQM, for a Sabbath period of 1 to 2 years, as described in the appended SQM report.

Friends approved

PB 22-47.2 Additionally, during the Sabbath period, SQM requests approval from PB that the following essential functions of SQM be overseen by the Permanent Board:

- receiving and endorsing travel minutes*
- lifting up and laying down meetings in the Quarter*
- discerning and recording gifts of ministry brought by monthly meetings of SQM.*

In the case that a monthly meeting wishes to put forward a recording of gifts of ministry, this process will be under the care and oversight of the Permanent Board, ensuring consultation, participation, and significant involvement from meetings in the Quarter, and following the process in Faith and Practice as much as possible.

These decisions were further approved at Sessions, 2022.

Consistent with the 1985 Faith and Practice, and the proposed (but not yet approved) NEYM Faith and Practice appendix on the Establishing a Monthly Meeting (<https://neym.org/faith-and-practice/appendices/establishing-monthly-meeting-3>), the Clerk proposed that a visiting committee be formed of members of the Salem Quarter.

Friends Approved a visiting committee.

Leslie Manning, PB clerk offered names of a committee to visit and worship with Three Rivers and report back to the Permanent Board:

Regina McCarthy (Wellesley)

Ellen Neelands (Acton)

Mary Zwirner (Beacon Hill and Permanent Board member)

No objections were raised to these Salem Quarter Friends serving on the visiting committee, but due to pressures to vacate the meeting room, Friends were prevented from more settled discernment.