

Mattapoisett Friends Meeting
Memorial Minute for our Friend James Dexter

James Dexter was born in Mattapoisett in 1944. Around the age of nine, he and his cousins started attending meeting in Mattapoisett, shepherded by a neighbor. He was a faithful member until his death in September of 2023.

When James was a youngster, there was a divider between the men's and women's sections (men on the right, women on the left), and a pot belly stove that someone would have gotten fired up earlier in the morning on cold days. James used to sit with the men and hear the sermon before leaving for first day school. He remembered playing in a sandbox and he remembered the two outhouses that were donated to the Boy Scouts once the meeting got indoor plumbing. When James was old enough, he and his cousins walked to meeting on their own. If they got there early, they would walk on the stone wall that surrounds the property. He and his wife Dana got married in the meeting house in 1992.

For years and years, James took it upon himself to make sure the building and grounds were well taken care of. Toward the end of his life, Friends had to plead with him not to mow the lawn, as that kind of exertion was against doctor's orders. He told us he would rather die mowing the meeting house lawn than sit at home. We loved James and we miss him. It is fitting that the pink granite stone that will mark his buried ashes in the meeting cemetery comes from the original foundation of the meeting house. It says: A Friend to Everyone.

Approved by Mattapoisett Friends on January 28, 2024