

# NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Minutes of Meeting of May 27, 2016

Present: Fred Dettmer (Clerk), Spee Braun, Keith Johnson, Peter Phillips, Jim Whitely, Mary Williams

1. The meeting opened with worship and centering. Friends shared their condition.
2. Peter Phillips reported that the Plattekill Meetinghouse property appears to be ready for clear title and the transaction should take place this summer without need for court action. **The Clerk will remain informed** of the need for an appraisal and whether brokers will be enlisted to solicit interest in the property. **Peter will provide Keith Johnson with information on the current insurance policy.**
3. Keith Johnson reported that the Yearly Meeting is the sole named insured on the Monkton property, and that the renter has no separate insurance in the event that the renter caused damage. He suggested that the renter be required to take out insurance. It was noted that the Trustees have previously approved sale of this and other real property. **Mary Williams and Spee Braun will pursue the sale of the property.** The Trustees authorize them to engage an agent and proceed with the process of seeking a buyer.
4. **Fred Dettmer and Keith Johnson will visit the Morris (NY) Cemetery and engage the appropriate municipality on its assuming ownership and responsibility of the property.** The associated fund continues in the principal amount of approximately \$20,000 and retained income of an additional (approximately) \$20,000. The original property may have been merged into a larger cemetery in the subsequent years. The fund will be retained while the interests of the municipality, and the current condition of the property, are determined, with the concern that, if the funds are not needed for their original purpose, they may be redirected to other appropriate purposes.
5. No progress has taken place on the disposition of the property at Yorktown Heights. The Trustees discussed whether the church that currently leases the property should be approached to purchase the property, instead of (or prior to) engaging a broker to seek a buyer. It was noted that in 2011 the Yearly Meeting offered to sell the property to the lessee church for \$150,000 along with certain other conditions that were not agreed upon, and the question arose whether the Yearly Meeting continued to be obligated by that value. The property is appraised at substantially above that value. Concern was expressed that, at least in the past, the Yearly Meeting's relationship with the lessee church has not been strictly arm's length, but rather more tender. **Fred Dettmer will**

**determine** (a) the current status of the deed and the lease; (b) the current status of property insurance (and whether the Yearly Meeting is a named insured); (c) whether a current market value can be determined; and (d) the views of the lessee church with respect to the possible disposition of the property. Fred is authorized to engage professional assistance if needed.

6. Mary Williams reported that the audit was not yet complete. She has not yet received the final audit and financial statement. She considers that both the audit and bookkeeping processes lacked effective management by the Yearly Meeting, and all parties proceeded in good faith. She recommends that the bookkeeper be paid for his work to date and that more reliable and effective supervisory procedures be created and enforced for future work. Mary will memorialize her instructions to the bookkeeper and the auditor. The Trustees reaffirmed their Minute 2 of April 2, 2016<sup>1</sup>. The Trustees approved the payment of the invoices of the auditor and bookkeeper for 2014, and expect that no further work will take place for any audit or review in subsequent year until the 2014 work is in hand and approved by the Trustees, and the Trustees approve the process, schedule and costs for that additional work.
7. The Trustees discussed whether the current Audit Committee (named by and reporting to the Body) and be laid down and that the Trustees form an Audit Committee of its own, which will be named by and report to the Trustees.
8. The Trustees also discussed whether there should be a single Treasurer for the Yearly Meeting, responsible for the financial activity of both the operating budget and the funds held in trust.
9. Fred Dettmer reported that the Body at Spring Sessions greeted the Trustee's report on fund re-designations with skepticism. Members of the Trustees visited representatives of both Powell House and Oakwood to offer explanations why funds previously directed to them will no longer be distributed directly to them, and reported that these explanations were received and understood. The Black Concerns, Indian Affairs and Prisons Committees have also been advised that more funds will be made available to them as a result of these re-designations and they are prepared to receive these new funds. The Trustees discussed the concern of ensuring compliance with the wishes of donors with respect to distributions from restricted funds, while at the same time addressing the

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<sup>1</sup> Minute 2 of April 2, 2016, provides:

*The Trustees note that, pursuant to the Bylaws, "The Trustees shall be responsible for holding title to and administration of the properties, both real and personal, owned by the Corporation." In that capacity, the Trustees expect that (a) no further payment will be made to the accountant, nor any payments to the auditor beyond \$10,000 until the Trustees are satisfied with the status of current and further work, and (b) no further work will take place for 2015 or the GAAP audit until the Trustees have assessed the work in hand for 2014, and the projected costs for 2015. Noting that the Audit Committee will pursue this inquiry, the Trustees expect to approve any decision with respect to the adequacy and cost of any further work on the GAAP audit or review. This minute will be conveyed to the Audit Committee and the General Services Committee.*

predictable concerns from the Body with respect to adjustment of historical support for certain entities such as Powell House and Oakwood. **The manner of presenting these topics to the Body in Summer Sessions will be discussed.** Certain further adjustments to re-designations were agreed upon, as reflected on the attached chart. The Trustees also noted that accountability reports will be required for many of these distributions, and the question of accountability reporting generally will be addressed at the next meeting.

10. Two monthly meetings are considering laying down, and the question arises whether those meetings should be advised by the Trustees on their responsibility to transfer assets to the Yearly Meeting. **Fred Dettmer will offer to consult with the meetings** in regard to their legal responsibilities. Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting, at its request, will be kept informed of Fred's activities.
11. The Trustees considered the recommendations brought to their attention by the York Committee in response to applications that it has received. The Trustees disapproved the application of a non-member who proposed activities that were neither religious nor educational. They also disapproved a grant of \$2,000 to an applicant whose entire needs were equal to that amount. The other five applicants were approved for grants of an even amount of the remaining balance after the sixth person's grant is reconsidered to be an amount proportional to need. The checks are to be made to the schools, not the individual grantees.
12. The next meeting will be held in early July, probably by conference call, on a date to be determined.
13. After closing worship, the meeting adjourned.

Peter Phillips,  
Recording Clerk