

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES
Minutes of July 28, 2016

Present: Fred Dettmer (Clerk), Spee Braun, Peter Phillips, Roseann Press, Mary Hannon Williams

Absent: Keith Johnson, Jim Whitely

Also Present: Lucinda Antrim

1. **Worship & Sharing.** The Clerk invited the group to open its business in silent and expectant worship.
2. **Introductions & Regrets.** Those present introduced themselves and related their interest in service as Trustees. Roseann Press of Housatonic Meeting, newly appointed as a Trustee, was welcomed.
3. **Re-designations of Trust Funds:**
 - a. Mary Williams reported on meetings and discussions with affected committees and groups since Spring Sessions; conducting listening and responding sessions at Summer Sessions; and presentation to the Body at Summer Sessions. The body has approved the proposed re-designations.
 - b. Fred Dettmer reported preliminary, informal audit and legal advice that restrictions on certain funds may no longer bind the Trustees in cases where the amount of the principal has been distributed, and the trust instrument does not provide that principal must be preserved. If confirmed, this may give the Trustees the opportunity to pool groups of smaller funds to create a larger, unrestricted, fund. It was agreed that this possibility would be addressed at a later date.
 - c. Mary Williams proposed the creation of a document, to be sent to each Monthly Meeting, that would describe the financial resources available to members of Yearly Meeting and the application process for each fund (irrespective of whether application would be made to the Trustees or to other Yearly Meeting bodies). Questions were raised whether the Trustees were responsible for soliciting applications to funds, grants from which the Trustees do not manage. It was also raised that certain committees charged with this tasks are not taking on this responsibility. There was unity that the idea should be pursued.

4. **Plattekill Meetinghouse:** Peter Phillips reported that the process of seeking court approval for the transfer of the Plattekill Meetinghouse from Huguenot Historical Society to the Trustees continues. Keith Johnson and Spee Braun visited the site recently. A resident of Newburgh has expressed interest in buying the property once the Trustees perfect ownership, at the appraised price of \$38,000. We have learned of the possible existence of a fund designated for improvement of the building, which is being investigated. The Trustees considered certain issues that have been raised by the surveyor and agreed that, in order to provide unclouded title, the meeting was willing to enter into license agreements with the adjoining property owner, who is encroaching in minor ways on certain areas of the property. A Friend suggested that the Huguenot Society be asked to enter into a letter of intent. The question was also raised whether the property should be sold to the highest bidder, rather than to the currently identified buyer. It was agreed that the property will be sold without its contents.

5. **Disposition of Currently Owned Properties:**
 - a. **Monkton:** Spee Braun explained that the building is not laid down, but has evolved into a Methodist congregation. The Trustees discussed options for next steps and agreed that Spee and Mary will visit the congregation and share with them verbally and subsequently in writing our intention to proceed with selling the building, which is on 1/3 acre, and an associated cemetery, which is 3/4 acre in size and in the middle of some fields four miles away. We affirmed that our intention is to divest NYYM fully of these two properties.
 - b. **Morris Cemetery:** Keith Johnson went to the Otsego County Courthouse yesterday to try to find the deed for the cemetery in Morris. After searching through a number of books, he located the deed recording the transfer of property from the Morris Meeting to NYYM in 1928.
 - c. **Yorktown Heights:** Fred Dettmer visited this property and reported that he found the church and parsonage in good shape. He initiated contact with the pastor and is seeking to arrange a meeting with him. Roseann Press volunteered to join in this meeting.

6. **Audit:** Mary Hannon Williams reported that the audit will not be clean because of several issues, one of which was the designation of certain trust funds. We will not have another audit until 2018 at the earliest, by which time it is hoped that certain processes and designation will have been cleaned up.

7. **Structural Reform:** Nominating Committee has suggested that Mary Williams act as Treasurer of both the Trustees and the Yearly Meeting. She is willing to do so and it is expected the body will approve.

8. **Endowment Management:** ARCH has reported an expected shortfall of about \$20,000, as a result of its not getting certain anticipated grants. The Dietrich Fund, administered

by the Trustees, has previously been directed to the Friends Foundation for the Aging, and the Trustees may consider whether to reallocate this income if requested.

Respectfully Submitted.

Peter Phillips
Recording Clerk