



Board meeting minutes May 17, 2022

Present: Eric Andrews, John Cooley, Tyler Hoff, Beth Hudson Keller, Abigail Meletti, Nikki Mosgrove, Lisa Ogletree, Conrad Person, Jim Whitely, Beth Yingling, Susan Hoskins (ED)

The meeting began with silent reflection at 7:04 PM and ended at 9:24 PM

1. Jim welcomed everyone.
2. The **Executive Director Report** sought feedback on whether the Grantee Partner Information Forms were helpful—yes. We could ask new grantee partners to fill them out to reduce the time we spend. Susan also asked if members would prefer convening groups of grantees for mid-year conversations, and the response was to continue individual meetings which allow greater openness and tailored questions.
3. **Quaker Convening discussion**- it was generally agreed that the convening was interesting, energizing and hopeful for future efforts. Many of those present had not met each other but seemed eager to work together and to meet again. It seems rightly ordered for FFA to continue in the convener role until they can be self-sustaining as a whole or in sub-groups. There are many opportunities for collaboration, co-sponsoring, and cross-publicizing that can leverage the limited resources of these small groups into greater benefit for all, be a magnifier. It was encouraging to hear from younger leaders who are passionate about this work and have new ideas. It was great to see the ways that earlier grants are continuing to have impact with ARCH training in Concord Quarter and NEYM, to see programs continuing at FGC and Pendle Hill. This was made more possible by using Zoom. FFA made a big leap with supporting ARCH, and this is another opportunity for a significant transformative role.

Possible directions include: Exploring griefwork for the shrinking of the Society of Friends, rethinking the QAR website, collaborations. FFA wants to support the process without directing toward a specific outcome, to see what these organizations want to propose for possible future funding. It may take some time for innovative ideas to emerge.

Next steps: Susan will convene the group again in September on Zoom. Board members will not be included in the next meeting, but the group may be called on to report in the future.

4. **Grants deferred**
  - a. **Pendle Hill** – APPROVED a grant of \$22,500 to support virtual programs to build community among isolated older Friends.
  - b. **Camden Coalition** – APPROVED a grant of \$35,000 to support the medical-legal partnership program serving low income older adults with complex medical and social needs in Camden NJ. It was noted that while not Quaker, this organization has a great reputation and capacity for innovative and successful programs and it served low income people of color with complex needs. This grant enables FFA to be a partner.

- c. It is helpful to have guidelines for granting so we can prioritize and be consistent. Do we want “tried and true” projects tested by larger grant makers, small innovative partners that have difficulty securing funding, certain sectors, etc.
5. **Governance** – Lisa presented the “FFA at a Glance” document and graphic, which are slight revisions from the prior version, and encapsulate the core elements of FFA for internal and external use. Both were APPROVED, with particular appreciation for the visual graphic.
6. **Corporate Annual Meeting** – Jim opened the meeting at 8:09 PM.
  - a. Lisa read a Minute of Appreciation for Beth Yingling (attached below) and others made comments about her dedicated service to the McCucheon and Friends Foundation since 1991. A gift was presented. Beth will stay until June 30.
  - b. The following officers were unanimously approved by the board for re-election to an additional one-year term: James Whitely President, Eric Andrews VP & Treasurer, Beth Hudson Keller Secretary. Page 3a in Handbook
  - c. The following trustees were unanimously approved by the board for re-election to an additional three-year term, to be the Class of 2025: Beth Hudson Keller and Jim Whitely. Beth Yingling is retiring from the board as of the end of her current term, June 30, 2022, so the Class of 2025 has one vacancy - please send nominations to Lisa. Committees affirmed.
  - d. Meeting dates: There are many conveniences to Zoom meetings but we miss seeing each other in person. It was agreed to try to have the annual meeting in person, on a Saturday morning (first week of May) in Newtown, so people can drive home in daylight. The grantee partner meeting will happen at another time on Zoom (convenience). Page 3c in Handbook.
  - e. Trustees reminded to sign and email Disclosure forms to Susan.
  - f. Meeting closed at 8:40 PM
7. **Finance** – Eric summarized his conversation with Amelia about Fossil Fuels. JPMorgan will offer several new “negative screens” which can be selected to avoid investment in these sectors. FFA can select Fossil Fuels to be in alignment with the November 2019 investment policy. She also presented some options for “positive screens,” companies exploring alternative energy sources. A third option is transferring funds from JPMorgan to Friends Fiduciary, which does the screening and advocacy. By default the ratio is changing as no withdrawals have been made from FF while all expenses are paid from the JPM account. It was suggested that review of investments and the ratio should be reviewed annually. There is not unity on this issue. Some feel strongly about taking a climate justice stand and not changing the policy while others focus on maximizing return. Questions about the alignment of fossil fuels and non-renewable energy and JPMorgan strategy remain, so a meeting with Amelia in late June or July will be scheduled for all who wish to attend (topics: negative and positive screens, current recommendations, fossil fuel vs non-renewables).
8. **Consent Agenda**- Minutes from April 21 and notes from the Quaker Convening on May 10 were APPROVED.

Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director



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Board of Trustees:

May 17, 2022

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*President*

Eric Andrews

John Cooley

R. E. Tyler Hoff

Beth Hudson Keller

Abigail Meletti

Nikki Mosgrove

Lisa Galante

The Board of Trustees of Friends Foundation for the Aging minutes its appreciation to Beth Yingling for her board service of more than thirty-one years. Beth joined the board of the McCutchen Friends Home in February, 1991. As a major contributor in the strategic discussions that led to the 2007 transition from the McCutchen to the Foundation, Beth was our indispensable legal counsel. She has remained as such for the past 15 years, serving faithfully as the Board's Corporate Secretary and member of the FFA Executive Committee. Her experience as a lawyer whose practice focused on nonprofit organizations and philanthropy has been invaluable. Beth is a generous person. She has donated her time to the Foundation, along with several other board commitments. She has always been open to understanding and approving grant applications that are grounded in Friends values. The Board appreciates her loyal service and wishes her well in future endeavors.