

Online via Zoom
Saturday, July 25, 2020, 2:30 p.m.

Clerk: Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick)
Assistant clerk: Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay)
Recording clerk: Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale)
Reading clerk: Barbra Bleecker (Montclair)

2020-07-30. Friends gathered into a period of waiting worship. Jeffrey Aaron, clerk, introduced the Friends serving at the “clerks’ table.” Chad Gilmartin from the technical support team provided instruction on how to participate in the Zoom session.

2020-07-32. The clerk observed that the most frequent times when we as a yearly meeting struggle, it is with the wording of the minutes, particularly when they record a deep and moving experience. On July 21, such an occasion arose after the reading of the minutes, and the last two minutes from that meeting were not approved at the time. Mary Eagleson read the amended minutes 2020-07-20 and 2020-07-21 from that business session. The two minutes were approved.

2020-07-33. Riley Robinson, representing Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), spoke about the work of that organization. He explained how FCNL determines its legislative priorities, by asking for input from monthly meetings across the country. This year there were over 200 responses.

William Penn House no longer has its own board but is directed by the members of the FCNL Education Fund. Their meetings to consider matters related to the Wm. Penn House are held separately from those related to the Education Fund. Yearly Meetings no longer name members to the Wm. Penn House board. (Riley’s notes are attached.)

2020-07-34. Jean Doneit, clerk of Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, read the attached memorial minute for Richard D. Hathaway, a member of her meeting, who passed away on January 29, 2020. Dick was known to many who visited the book table at summer sessions at Silver Bay. He came to the Religious Society of Friends as a young adult in the early 1950’s, and was dedicated to peace concerns. He worked for three years as the executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (1952-1955). He was active for many years in the Civil Rights Movement, marching in Selma in 1965 and chairing the legislative committee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Poor People’s Campaign in 1968. On Easter Sunday, 1967, he led approximately 300 participants across the Peace Bridge at Niagara Falls to deliver cash to Canadian Quakers to send aid to North Viet Nam. In the summer of 1971 he was chief organizer of a 3-month silent peace vigil in front of the White House.

Dick’s deep engagement in service was manifest in his practical participation in and support of Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting and yearly meeting committees. He became a person to whom others could turn when in need of an answer, or spiritual conversations which often resonated

with others' faith journeys. In the last hours of his life, he spoke the word "infinity," over and over, expressing a final experience of finding the Divine.

Ministry followed. Dick was beloved by many. The words "faithful, inclusive, community" apply especially well to him. He planted many "seeds," which have spread far and wide and have taken root and grown. In his absence, his continued presence is felt in Poughkeepsie Meeting. He could be counted on to speak his mind and heart.

2020-07-35. Marissa Badgley, serving as interim young adult field secretary, gave her report. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve as part-time staff. This has been a strange year, sometimes marked by frustration and pain, but also blessed. She reviewed the 8 points presented by young adults a year ago, and reported on the work she has done to address them, using a graph to highlight the various parts of it. She reminded us that her work week is only 20 hours per week, and urged us to consider what might be accomplished by a full-time young adult field secretary. She listed the increases in numbers of young adults now connected to the yearly meeting. She compared the results of the Covid 19 survey taken by the yearly meeting, which show that the pandemic has hurt young adults more severely than it has older Friends. They were more likely to have lost their jobs, or to have taken pay cuts, or suffered psychologically. Worse, these setbacks have occurred when they are in a vulnerable stage of life. What's next? Marissa has no idea. She sees many opportunities for connecting with young adults and urges all Friends to reach out to them. Further, she urges the yearly meeting to find the funds to support a full-time young adult field secretary.

Ministry followed. One Friend affirmed the power of feeling connected to the YM community, which has been brought about by the young adult field secretary. Another noted the importance of joy in life, and lifted up the joy of having a young adult field secretary. A Friend mentioned that young adults are the "growing edges" of our yearly meeting. Another commented on how important is the work both to the future of Quakerism as well as to the young adults themselves, and explained that the Development Committee is working now to raise money to continue the young adult field secretary position. One Friend said, "Remember our youth now, treat them well, they are the future of the yearly meeting."

2020-07-36. Anne Liske read a second section from the State of Society (attached to the minutes from July 21). Each of the individual meetings' reports will be available in a folder on the yearly meeting website.

2020-07-37. The minutes were read and approved.

ATTACHMENTS

FCNL's Riley Robinson's Notes for his Report to NYYM

(see minute 2020-07-33)

About 10 years ago I participated in an interfaith group studying emergency preparedness for religious groups. Each health care expert that we spoke to said that it was not a matter of if there was going to be a pandemic, but when. They told us that preparedness would make congregations more able to help their members and more able to help others as well. I didn't have much luck talking to Quakers about this and other preparedness problems. But this March a faint memory of this came back to me. I went to look in a dusty corner and was glad to find that I owned two boxes of N95 masks that I hadn't thought about in years.

Some situations are so big and complicated that they are hard to see, but that doesn't make them any less real. So all Quaker organizations, all of us, are facing the realities of today, and whatever else is coming. Quakers work well with queries and questions. So I'm going to ask three provocative ones. And I certainly don't know the answers to these:

1. What if, knowing that we are heading to a Niagara Falls of an environmental crisis, New York Yearly Meeting and Friends Committee on National Legislation had both decided **a year ago** to have annual meetings by Zoom because the environmental cost of meeting in person was too great, and then made a public witness of it?
2. What if, a year ago, knowing that this nation was under severe racial stress, both organizations had dedicated ourselves to bringing a plan to the next annual gathering for being authentically and thoroughly antiracist organizations, ready to work in our respective communities as well?
3. What if both organizations had readied plans to deal with the militarization of government and society, knowing the both President Dwight Eisenhower and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had publicly warned us decades ago that all the public services in the nation would suffer if we did not?

I'm serious about the questions. But in each case, last year I might have said to myself, "No, that's too hard! Or, "No, we'll never agree to that!" But I recall a conversation long ago with a non-Quaker staffer of a Quaker organization, warning, "If you don't make decisions, they will get made for you."

But these are also trick questions. Because in each case, there was a Quaker organization available to help us with the problem. For the first, Quaker Earthcare Witness. For the Second, Friends General Conference. And for the third, Friends Committee on National Legislation.

My larger points? There is no more time to put off facing the big hairy realities. And this is no time for Friends and Quaker organizations to even think of trying to go it alone. Friends, we need each other!

Here is FCNL's vision:

- We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.
- We seek a society with equity and justice for all.
- We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.
- We seek an earth restored.

This is not just a poetic vision. These are the actual headings for FCNL's much longer Legislative Policy statement, renewed just last year.

Who decides what we work on? Well, actually you have a lot to do with it. In every year in which there is a congressional election, FCNL prepares a set of legislative priorities for the coming new congress. To do this, FCNL starts by asking for input from Friends Meetings and churches. And this spring, even with all the disturbance going on, Friends sent in more than 200 responses, which is terrific. Thank you! This will be approved at the November annual Meeting by the General Committee, on which 10 NYYM members currently serve.

So how is FCNL doing?

Well, like every year, FCNL sent out an annual report this spring. (Give headlines – Iran and Yemen, Root Causes of Violence, Native American Crime Victims, Gun Violence Research, four young adult programs). (But so much has happened since then!)

So this is not been the year that anybody planned for but it's the year we all got. Having said that, in recent times, FCNL developed its Human Resources capacity, developed a full-fledged communications department, and strengthened its computer network capacity. When DC shut down in early March, FCNL already had a work-from-home policy which all staff suddenly had to use. The computer system had to rapidly adapt to that as well, which happened. And FCNL has been able to get its message out to the public with pieces in public media, even in some military -related publications, on radio networks, and on TV like BBC and Al Jazeera.

Even more to the point, we'd been planning our annual young adult **Spring Lobby Weekend** for late March. It moved from a D.C. event to online in three weeks! 500 young adults made approximately 127 congressional visits online to lobby on climate change.

FCNL's nationwide network of **Advocacy Teams** continues to work on legislation involving war powers. This year so far, there are 123 teams who have made 187 lobby visits and gotten 98 press clips. Nine teams are in the NYYM region. Last November NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand spoke at the Advocacy Teams Retreat at annual meeting.

Quote from Mass. Rep. McGovern on one of their recent calls: "There is an urgency to the work that you are doing that is greater than any time in my lifetime. So much is riding on the work that you are doing. What I like about FCNL is I always feel you are speaking with moral authority.... And sometimes when it's uncomfortable you're annoyingly right on some of these issues."

I won't be able to talk about the many issues that FCNL works on, or how, but please come to the FCNL interest group for more, on Wednesday evening at 7 PM.

Financially, FCNL is cutting 13% from its budget for the coming year.

Meanwhile, just on Wednesday, FCNL:

- Issued a piece entitled: The United States Needs to Issue National Use of Force standards - (about policing).
- On our web site home page is the article “One Last Chance: Congress is Preparing the Most Impactful Bill of the Year,” telling you how you can help on the Covid bill.
- FCNL Young Fellow Ose Okooboh was named an Emerging Expert of the Forum on the Arms Trade.

We're passionate and we're patient, and we're just going to keep on going.

William Penn House is still a separate 501c3 organization. The board has the same composition as the FCNL Education Fund, but they meet as a separate entity to consider WPH decisions. Meetings/YMs no longer appoint board members. Right now we are moving forward with the extensive repairs the house needs. Originally we had planned to reopen the House in the fall of this year, but Covid19 has delayed that goal. We are looking forward to re-opening when it's feasible and offering hospitality and advocacy training and programming. We're very grateful for the many Friends who have been involved and supportive of William Penn House's work and are excited to see what this next phase of WPH's life will bring.

Draft public announcement:

Friends Committee on National Legislation Education Fund (FCNLEF) assumed responsibility for the governance and management of William Penn House on September 1, 2019. William Penn House will remain a separate 501(c)(3) charitable organization. When the building re-opens in fall 2020, the house will strengthen and expand the Quaker presence on Capitol Hill by providing accommodation in four dormitory rooms and three private bedrooms, as well as daytime rentals of the conference room accommodating 30 people. For more information, email wph@fcnl.org.

Staying in touch:

- [FCNL.org](http://fcnl.org) – what's happening on issues, upcoming events, etc.
- Join Friends from across the country every Wednesday at 5:15pm Eastern for silent reflection – <http://fcnl.org/ww-stream>
- [Fcntl.org/lobbyfromhome](http://fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome)
- [Fcntl.org/donate](http://fcnl.org/donate)

Video events:

<https://www.fcnl.org/action/events>

- **August 6 at 4:00 pm: Thursdays with Friends - 75 Years After Hiroshima** with Anthony Weir on the 75 anniversary of the US dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Join us for **Annual Meeting** online, November 14-17.

Riley Robinson*Major Gifts Officer*

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Memorial Minute for Richard Hathaway

(see minute 2020-07-34)

RICHARD D HATHAWAY, beloved member of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting for many, many years passed away on January 29, 2020. He had a vibrant, life-long devotion to Quakerism and let his life speak from the core of his being. Next to his photograph in the Poughkeepsie meeting house, he said: I made a career out of words but what speaks to me here is the silence."

It is impossible to truly summarize Dick's life by listing his accomplishments, though his life's work says much about who he was. It was a life well lived, a life that spoke. Most of those who spent time with him, worked with him and worshiped with him knew little or nothing of those things. What we knew was his presence. We knew and treasured his smile, his meticulous attention to detail, his insights and his ability to offer his leadings as a member of our body. We knew a man who turned to Quakerism early in life and then let his life speak in adherence to its principles. He was most of all a dear Friend.

The son of Dale and Edith Hathaway, Dick was born in Chillicothe, OH. After college he married and had two children with his first wife Shirley: Bruce, who predeceased him in April 2019 and a daughter, Linda Ellis whose family includes Dick's three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His wife since 1978, Viola Sabia Hale Hathaway who worked for the American Friends Service Committee when they met, remains a cherished member of Poughkeepsie Meeting which they joined together after their marriage.

Dick came to the Religious Society of Friends as a young adult and joined Cambridge Meeting in the early 1950's, after serving with the US Naval Reserve from 1945-46 and graduating from Oberlin College in 1949. He was particularly drawn to how God is expressed in the Quaker testimony of non-violence and the practice of taking peace concerns into actions and service. He worked for three years as the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (1952-55) and continued to support them throughout his life. He was active for many years in the Civil Rights Movement, marching in Selma in 1965 and chairing the legislative committee of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Poor People's Campaign in 1968.

Many people have been inspired by his work for peace that included risk, a strong personal integrity, a deep caring for all people, and a steady love for Quaker ways. Throughout his life Dick served on many Peace Concerns committees and organized or participated in Peace vigils for peace from the White House to the Poughkeepsie meeting house. He often spoke about the profound self-searching and lasting impact of participating on Easter Sunday 1967, in an act of civil disobedience, leading approximately 300 participants, including many non-Quakers, across the Peace Bridge at Niagara Falls to deliver cash to Canadian Quakers to send aid to North Viet Nam. In the summer of 1971 he was the chief organizer of the 3-month silent peace vigil in front

of the White House. Dick was involved in mediation for peace in Ireland and numerous other life commitments to outreach. In a 2004 talk, he said “The Quaker message is that peace begins with an individual, an individual in communion with the Holy Spirit, an individual living peace, and exemplifying it at all costs. In 1651, George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement, was offered a commission in the Puritan army. He refused it. Then he went home and wrote in his journal, ‘I told them I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars.’ Peace must be inward before it can become outward. Then you have to do something about it.”

In his vocation as a professor of English many of his gifts found expression. He taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Millsaps University, and SUNY New Paltz (1962-2011), wrote about early American literature and modern style in the craft of writing, and published numerous articles. Friends remember that he also wrote and published poetry and occasionally shared it in Quaker worship or discussion groups, bringing his and other poems life and depth. He self-published two thoughtful pamphlets on Quakerism as well (*Balancing Act – The Literary Artist as Contemplator* and *Reflections from Silence*). In meeting for worship his leadings to offer vocal ministry were honed through time to become brief, evocative messages. Over time he gravitated to committees of New York Yearly Meeting that required a comprehensive and sensitive way with words, or a sure grasp of financial matters. He served in many capacities over the years. **[We have not been able to track down a comprehensive list of Dick’s NYYM committee service, 1978-2008, some could be added here, now or later.]** His love of books led him to manage the book table for years during NYYM sessions at Silver Bay. He had many friends throughout the Yearly Meeting and was often hailed by them as he walked across the campus wearing his familiar sun hat!

Dick had an amazing talent and attentiveness for details embedded in our immediate world that could bring a richness to the most seemingly mundane things. He was meticulous and brought that talent to being treasurer of both Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting and Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting and the NYYM Budget Weekend. His broad understanding of financial matters and his ready and extensive understanding of computers, programming and electronic media helped him counsel the Meeting in matters ranging from building a website to investments to contractors’ estimates.

His support of committees was also very practical. Dick contributed enormous energy to the workings and running of Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting, serving on the Building and Grounds and Planning and Finance committees. Often during the week, driving past the Meeting House, one might see Dick’s car parked in the car lot and know that he was inside doing some job for the Meeting. On occasion, he was seen on the roof of the building removing ice or fixing shingles. In these years, the energy, time, and contributions Dick devoted to the Meeting seemed endless. Let us not forget his homemade ice cream at the socials!

Deep engagement in service and the Quaker way of life led him many times to new endeavors, including on Poughkeepsie’s Ministry and Counsel. Originally feeling that new attenders should not be intruded on with too many questions, during committee worship he had a profound leading to welcome them. Since that moment, he offered enthusiastic greetings over and over to many newcomers! He was joyful they happened to visit and was boundlessly interested to learn about

them. Many remember with gratitude this spiritual hospitality and kindness “welcoming in a stranger” who otherwise felt rather shy and new. This connection left people with a happy impression and often created lasting bonds. He expanded that role to facilitate book and discussion groups that started with a text, but ended up exploring anything that was on the participants’ minds, sharing his Quaker perspective on life. Dick became a person to whom others could turn when in need of an answer, some advice about the Meeting, or spiritual conversations which often resonated with others’ faith journeys. In the last hours of his life, he spoke the word “infinity,” over and over, expressing a final experience of finding the Divine.

Music was also Dick’s constant companion and his life work. As a youth he played violin and came to love many types of music, opera high among them. Throughout his life Dick encouraged music in others and after the death of his son, he shared with many Bruce’s beautiful and compelling compositions. Dick supported the gifts of other people, especially in the areas of literature, art and music. He attended many concerts and art shows as well as other programs members were involved in. He encouraged the projects and the project-makers and expressed his gratitude freely.

An especially poignant way that Dick’s life touched us was by witnessing the devotion he had for Viola and his family. He often spoke about Viola with abiding love. His eyes would fill with Light with the mention of her name - an unmistakable expression of the love he felt for her. His hardest final good-bye was the parting from his deepest earth-love. This love will always be fresh, and vibrant, and beautiful.

Dick was a regular at business and committee meetings and always had ideas and advice on what would be best for the Meeting. Late in his life he became less physically able, but he was always at Planning and Finance when held at his building, and came to Meeting for Worship even when it was difficult for him. He didn’t let his disabilities get him down. We found his messages in the last year thoughtful, intelligent and spirit-filled. He continued to have a smile for everyone and was always encouraging to others. He really appreciated what others did for him. Dick loved his Meeting and the people in it. He is greatly missed.

Approved by Poughkeepsie Monthly Meeting, 6/21/20.

Signed, Jean W. Doneit, clerk