

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting- Agenda for the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - 9:00 AM, December 20th, 2020 online via Zoom

- Chris Stanley, Clerk, and Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

1. Opening worship and query – Chris Stanley, Meeting Clerk.

Query: How do we look at the world around us and find the Light?

2. Chris: Welcome, recognition of first-time attenders, review of agenda.

3. Alice: Minutes of the November, 2020 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). Consider. Approve the November MWAB minutes?

4. Our three representatives on the Carolina Friends School Board have asked that we delay their annual report, normally presented in December, until next month.

5. John Bell, on behalf of the Peace and Justice Committee, will present a proposed letter to the Trustees of Guilford College, asking that they maintain their Quaker traditions while discerning their path forward. Q&A. Approve the letter?

6. Carolyn Stuart, Co-clerk of the Care and Counsel Committee, will present their annual report. Q&A. Accept the report?

7. Jeff Brown, Clerk of the Ministry and Worship Committee, will present their annual report. Q&A. Accept the report?

8. Additions for Nominations Committee – Unlike other committees, “vacancies on the Nominations Committee are nominated each fall by a naming committee, identified by the Clerk, and approved by MWAB.” The naming committee is Jeff Brown and Matt Drake. Nominations has requested two additional members. Recommendations from the naming committee?

9. Rooftop Solar Discussion – Various thoughts and recommendations regarding the proposal have been presented in MWAB in September, October and November and are recorded in the MWAB minutes, which are posted in the newsletter. [The newsletter archive is here.](#) The comments are also collected at the end of this agenda. Some are enthusiastic about proceeding with the project. Others are unsure or prefer a different approach. Additional options that have been suggested include:

- Not doing the project now due to the pandemic and uncertainty
- Investigating community solar, rather than an individual rooftop solution
- Investigating solar for IFC, rather than at the Meetinghouse property
- Prioritizing renovations and changes needed to support a return to worship in person
- Others?

We will have some time for a general discussion of possible ways to proceed from here.

10. Chris: Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is planned for 9:00 AM on January 17th, 2021.

. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. To send items for the weekly eNews email news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put “for eNews” in the subject line. Deadline is each Wednesday at midnight. For the monthly print newsletter, email news@chapelhillfriends.org. Put “for Newsletter” in the subject line. Deadline is the last Sunday of the month.

- B. This year, we will have a Zoom version of our annual Christmas Eve candle lighting service. Ministry and Worship will provide details.
- C. Other announcements?

11. Closing worship, virtual circle, preparation for 11:00 AM Meeting for Worship.

Collected committee rooftop solar thoughts at MWAB

September, 2020

8. Hank Elkins, Clerk of the Rooftop Solar Subcommittee along with the other members of the subcommittee, presented a report on their recommendations. Proposals from three solar contractors were collected. 8M Solar was selected for its high rating, its certificates in construction, engineering, and solar work. They can do all the work in house. Carolina Friends School supports this project but cannot at this time provide funding. The entire project will pay for itself in ten years or less. We are eligible for a rebate from Duke Energy. A fund-raising committee will need to be appointed. Peace & Justice (P&J), Buildings & Grounds (B&G), Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and Finance Committees are asked to thresh this proposal and bring a recommendation to the October Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB). Do they recommend doing this project during the 2020-2021 fiscal year? If yes, why? If no, why not? The hardware has a guarantee of 25 years performance, and a 12 year warranty from 8M. The inverters, which cost \$2100, have a warranty of 12 years. The solar panels cost \$500. The school house roof has been replaced fairly recently and has the structural strength to hold solar panels. Both roofs are currently under warranty. A request for the cons as well as the pros was made. Questions were raised about doing this project on a closed building, about removing trees, about whether doing this is a priority for the Meeting now, are there other projects to address climate change we might prefer? (See Appendix 4.)

October, 2020

8. Hank Elkins, Clerk of the Rooftop Solar Subcommittee along with committee members, presented the responses to questions that have been submitted about the proposal and a brief update on the work of this subcommittee. To proceed, we need to pay a down payment of \$6850. We can then apply for a rebate through Duke Energy in early January 2021 (only available 2021-2022) which means the remainder we need to raise is \$39,000. The panels will pay for themselves in ten years. We pay for energy anyway. If we install solar panels, we will pay upfront for ten years of energy and then receive energy cost-free after that. We will be saving \$35,000 that we would be spending anyway. A long discussion ensued. To be continued next month.

9. A. Hart Pillow, Clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness, reported that QEW met October 10, 2020 and came to unity in support of this project.

b. Bob Durovich, Co-clerk of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, reported there were no show stoppers regarding the project. Many questions were raised by individuals on the committee and some unease. But many were green lights.

c. Naveed Moeed, Co-clerk of P&J, presented their report. Installation of rooftop solar panels may be a drop in the ocean of the climate change crisis but so doing does send a message. P&J recommends pursuing the rooftop solar project

November, 2020

7. We continued to discern our decision about the Rooftop Solar proposal.

A. Chris summarized the Zoom meeting that was held last Monday with Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) and Carolina Friends School (CFS). Those representatives present from CFS were open to this project but had not taken it yet to CFS as a whole. The request of CFS was that they continue to pay the amount they currently pay for energy.

B. Thursday night there was a Zoom threshing session where a wide range of thoughts and feelings were expressed.

C. Mike Jokinen reported from the Finance Committee. (**Appendix 4.**) They spent a long time on this question and appreciate the labor of the Rooftop Solar Committee. The Finance Committee reported that they do not recommend borrowing money for the rooftop solar project. Since the NC regulatory agency for solar energy has announced that rebate requests will be accepted in both January and July of 2021, the Finance Committee does not recommend spending money for that application at this time and suggests we do further investigation into a possible capital campaign before proceeding.

D. M&W shared its statement of priorities (**Appendix 5.**)

A long discussion ensued without unity being achieved.

Appendix 4

Finance Committee Report

We appreciate the extensive work of the Solar Rooftop Committee in preparing Solar Rooftop Proposal. We approached this project as one of several capital projects that may require use of our existing resources and additional funds in the next two years. From this perspective we reached the following recommendations:

1. The top priority for capital projects is to support and plan for our safe return to the Meeting House when this is possible.
2. We recommend that we not borrow to undertake capital projects.
3. We estimate that we have about \$59,000 available for capital projects. We agreed that these funds could be available for capital projects with priority on preparations for returning to the Meeting House.
4. We do not recommend payment of \$6850 for interconnection and application procedures in 2020.
5. If the MWAB approves the Solar Rooftop Project and/or other projects as a priority for a capital campaign in 2021, we recommend that a fund raising subcommittee explore the feasibility for a campaign at that time. This Committee would report to Finance Committee, and Finance Committee would advise the MWAB.

Appendix 5

Ministry & Worship Committee, Report to the November 15, 2020 MWAB

From the perspective of the spiritual life of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, the Ministry & Worship Committee is in unity with the following statement. Priorities for the spiritual life of the Meeting center around Meeting for Worship and preparing the meetinghouse to be reopened when we are allowed to gather again. Such preparation will likely involve an investigation into the health of the air inside the building, consideration of alternatives to improve the air inside, and estimates of costs. Expanding gathering/sitting areas outside may also be considered. When we reopen, do we want Meeting for Worship to be available by Zoom as well as in-person? Ministry and Worship may investigate this combination. Initial estimates from other meetings for the needed audio-visual equipment to offer Zoom Meeting for Worship from the meeting room total about \$5,000. Planning on renovation projects to reduce noise in the foyer (and in the central room downstairs), reduce crowding in the foyer, and improve access from the outside was interrupted by the March closing of the meetinghouse. The improvements are important for the on-going life of the Meeting. The planning should be resumed in 2021. Some of the costs will be relatively minor. Others, such as repairing the settling of the cement sections in front of the main entry, cannot be known until investigation is complete. Should we consider constructing a "welcome room" to solve the on-going problems of the foyer? That will include a significant increase in costs. An ad hoc committee approved by MWAB needs to recommend alternatives and costs.