

Excerpts from Earliest Minutes of Conscience Bay Monthly Meeting

[These are the first formal minutes. The group had already been meeting as a worship group for some unspecified time without formal records.]

Second Month 10, 1961

It was pointed out that the group must have an Acting Clerk if it is to transact business or make decisions as a meeting. The appointment of Thomas Tornquist to act as Clerk was approved.

The group's official status and relationship to the Society of Friends was discussed and it was felt that a close relationship with Westbury Monthly Meeting might be helpful while the new Meeting is growing. The Acting Clerk was directed to draft a letter to the Clerk of Westbury Monthly Meeting requesting indulged status under the care of Westbury Meeting.

A concern was raised that the new Meeting have a name that would relate it to the early Quaker traditions of our area without identifying it too narrowly with any part of the area. The Meeting approved the suggestion that it adopt the name of Conscience Bay which was closely connected with early Friends. The Meeting will, therefore, be known as Conscience Bay Meeting, Religious Society of Friends.

The Suffolk Museum in Stony Brook where we are currently meeting for worship has no facilities for a First Day School and inconveniences have arisen both for us and the Museum because of the redecorating now going on. For these reasons it was felt that we must find a new meeting place.... William and Lee Huntington offered the use of their home until permanent quarters can be found and the Meeting gratefully accepted. Meetings for worship will continue to be held on First Days at 11 at the Suffolk Museum till plans for the First Day School are complete at which time the Meeting will move to the Huntington's home.

Feeling that a strong First Day School is an important source of strength, the Meeting appointed Jody Pike, Nancy Cowit, Gisela Tornquist, Lee Huntington, and Gene Galantino to be a First Day School committee....

[Note: There was also discussion about purchasing a property in Old Field which later proved impossible due to the owner's raising the price and refusal to make the sale conditional on a zoning change.]

March 3, 1961

The question of our status as a Meeting and our relationship to other Meetings was reopened because Friends were dissatisfied with the decision taken at the last Meeting for Business to request indulged status from Westbury Monthly Meeting. On further study of the New York Yearly Meeting Discipline, the Meeting agreed that indulged status does not meet our need. It appeared that courses open to us were to become a Preparative Meeting of Westbury Monthly Meeting or to ask New York Westbury Quarterly Meeting to establish us as a Monthly Meeting in our own right. After much searching and discussion of our present size and our potential strength, Friends agreed

that the Monthly Meeting status best fits our circumstances....

Jody Pike, Chairman of the First Day School Committee reported that the Committee had met to make preliminary plans. The 14 children of the Meeting will be divided into a nursery group, a primary group, and a Junior High group*.... It was pointed out that the committee would need funds for literature and teaching materials and that a treasurer should be appointed for the Meeting to accept contributions and make disbursements.... Gordon Alderfer ... agreed to act as Treasurer....

*In the course of discussing what to teach the children, members of the committee were led to the conclusion that adult members of the meeting might profitably clarify their own opinions, attitudes and understands, To this end it was proposed that a discussion group be formed to study and discuss th Queries of NY Yearly Meeting and other topics of interest to members. The Meeting approved this suggestion and it was agreed that the first meeting of the discussion group would be held March 11 at the home of Thomas and Gisela Tornquist.

April 8, 1961

The Clerk read a letter he had written to New York Westbury Quarterly Meeting requesting Monthly Meeting Status for Conscience Bay Meeting and the meeting approved the sending of this letter....

William Huntington, Chairman of the Planning Committee, ... described properties he had found available in Smithtown and Stony Brook that might be made suitable but the Meeting agreed that it would be more expensive to purchase and remodel either of these properties than to arrange for use of the Huntington's barn. The Planning Committee was asked to explore the details of work and expense involved in this project and to report back at the nest meeting for business....

April 30, 1961

.... It was reported that New York Westbury Quarterly Meeting had granted our request for monthly meeting status and had appointed a committee of Friends from other Long Island Meetings to assist us in organizing. The Clerk was directed to arrange for a meeting of this committee with Conscience Bay Meeting and a choice of May 21 and May 28 was suggested. It was proposed that the committee be invited to join us on one of these first days for meeting for worship, to be followed by luncheon and meeting to business.

In preparation for our organizational meeting, the Discipline was studied and officers and committees named in accordance with it's provisions. The following Friends were named to offices:

Clerk– Thomas E. Tornquist

Treasurer- Wilma Hoek

Recorder- Gisela Tornquist

Trustees- Erasmo Galantino, Wilma Hoek, Thomas Tornquist

Representatives to the Joint Peach and Social Order Committee of Long

Island Meetings-

William Huntington, Harry Purvis.
Joint Committee of Oversight and Ministry and Counsel- All recorded members of the Society of Friends who are members of Conscience Bay Meeting will act as a committee of the whole until the size of the Meeting makes this impractical.

The Meeting gratefully accepted a plan presented by William Huntington for converting a barn and cottage on his property into a meeting house and first day school, respectively. Under this plan the meeting will lease the property for two years with an option to renew the lease or to buy the property for \$15,000 at the end of the two years. William Huntington agreed to put approximately \$2,000 worth of capital improvements into the property and the meeting agreed to pay a monthly rental of \$100 in addition to paying for heat and utilities. The meeting undertook to raise an initial building fund of \$500 to cover the cost of paint, lumber, and other materials to be used in converting the two buildings and refurbishing them. As much as possible of the actual work on the buildings will be done by members of the meeting and it was agreed that the discussion group scheduled for Saturday May 6 would be combined with a work party and covered dish supper. Ed Cowit volunteered to act as coordinator of the work program and to work closely with William Huntington on the plans for work parties and individual projects.

May 28, 1961

.... It was agreed that both the present meeting (May 28) and the previous meeting (April 30) would be regarded as organizational meetings and that the organization of Conscience Bay Meeting would be considered complete and the meeting officially established at the close of the present (May 28) meeting....

Wilma Hoek, as Treasurer of Conscience Bay Meeting was authorized to open a bank account in the name of the meeting in a bank of her choice and to receive and disburse money at the direction of the meeting. Erasmo Galantino, Jr, as Assistant Treasurer, is also authorized to sign checks and to make deposits and withdrawals....