



***A Vision for
Woolman Hill***

Building a Firm Foundation 2002

A Legacy of Nourishing New England Friends

Woolman Hill is a Quaker retreat, conference, and education center, offering a range of programs on topics of spiritual reflection and social renewal. Our facilities are also available for other groups wishing to host their events in a beautiful, simple, rural setting.

We are founded on Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, integrity, and stewardship. We believe that there is that of God in every person, and we serve as a sanctuary for nourishing that spirit.

The mission of Woolman Hill is laid out in its 1958 bylaws of incorporation:

“to foster, develop, and strengthen the testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends by securing and maintaining suitable premises for holding meetings for worship, meditation, and study, for retreats, conferences, seminars, and other religious and educational activities.”

We offer spiritual nourishment through scheduled programs, personal retreats, and other events hosted at Woolman Hill. During the past year, more than five hundred Quakers spent a weekend at Woolman Hill, part of the more than 2000 people who used our facilities throughout the year. In the year ahead, nearly half of the weekends are already reserved for Friends' youth retreats, monthly meeting gatherings, and Quaker workshops. We are excited about the work of building Quakerism through programs rooted in faith, experience, and love.

Woolman Hill welcomes people of all faiths to share in all its programs — except a few that are for particular Quaker groups. We welcome all who seek to study, meditate, worship, and play in our spiritually grounded community. As a resource available to the wider community, Woolman Hill also hosts weddings, workshops, meetings, and summer camps.

Woolman Hill's environment guides people beyond the usual. It is a place to explore topics, to experiment, and to plant seeds; a place to nurture ideas in faith. Our community life springs from the same Spirit that moved John Woolman (a Quaker known particularly for his work against slavery among Quakers half a century before the Civil War) to travel, speak, work, worship, and witness two centuries ago.

Today, the work is the same as it was in Woolman's day — to nurture the Source that connects all aspects of our lives, to be obedient to the Spirit, and to reflect, in all our endeavors, the love of God towards the whole creation. Woolman Hill is growing new seeds in New England Quakerism, and at the same time providing facilities to the wider community that demonstrate Friends' central attention to integrity and simplicity.

Building a Firm Foundation: A Vision for Woolman Hill

Woolman Hill is now seeking funds to finish the restoration and renovation of the historic 1849 North Dartmouth Meeting House that is being rebuilt at Woolman Hill, and to meet some of our other capital needs. This is our most ambitious fundraising campaign ever, and we need your support and your help.

The North Dartmouth Meeting House will provide a dedicated space for worship that Woolman Hill very much needs. Worshipping in a meeting house that has been used for so many years is a special opportunity. Truly, we believe that this building will put Woolman Hill on a firmer foundation. It expands Woolman Hill's usefulness to all the communities we serve, and is also a strong statement about the importance of preserving the best of our past.

We are working hard to find the right balance between our love of our architectural heritage and the need to make changes that modern use requires. It's important that the building be accessible to all, that it be safe, that it be ecologically sound, and that it not present undue challenges for maintenance.

You can contribute to this exciting project. We hope that you will give money, consider volunteering to help with some of the construction and landscaping tasks, tell your friends about Woolman Hill, and come to visit or to attend a program.

Look through this booklet. Visit Woolman Hill in the coming year to experience this unique resource. Become part of the renewal at Woolman Hill by making a contribution toward our capital campaign.

From the Executive Directors

In our two years at Woolman Hill we have seen many changes. The grounds are more beautiful, the accommodations more comfortable, and, most of all, there is excitement around this place. The Quaker workshops are filling up quickly, and there is a buzz of ideas for possible future retreat topics, from Friends throughout New England.

This year we are offering more Woolman Hill workshops than ever before. We are watching Woolman Hill evolve into a center for stimulating Quaker thought, while remaining the quiet hilltop sanctuary we all love.

We hope to see you soon!

Mark and Daphne



Architect's drawing of North Dartmouth Meeting House at its new location.



The North Dartmouth Meeting House in its original location.

North Dartmouth Meeting House History

The North Dartmouth Meeting House was built in 1849 for a growing Quaker community in southern Massachusetts. A hundred and fifty years later, after a period of decline in Meeting membership, the few remaining members arranged to donate the Meeting House to Woolman Hill to save it from demolition.

In 1996, the building was disassembled, and its pieces meticulously numbered and loaded onto trailers. It was then transported to Deerfield, Massachusetts, where it awaited a detailed land-use plan to integrate it successfully into Woolman Hill's landscape.

In January 2001, mindful that long storage might irreversibly damage the components, the Board of Directors accelerated its planning for the Meeting House, and sought funding to rebuild the structure. Eighty individual Friends and several Quaker foundations contributed the money necessary to begin the reconstruction and restoration of the exterior, which was completed in October 2001.

As with any historical restoration project, we found more work than we had anticipated was required. Parts of the 150-year-old Meeting House were in need of extensive repair. Major changes in building codes, even since the donation of the building, made the rebuilding process more complex — and more costly. Local code officials required better septic facilities and better fire protection for all of Woolman Hill before approving this project.

Carefully restoring a historic meeting house, while complying with modern standards for fire safety, accessibility, and responsible energy use, has been more challenging than the Woolman Hill Board ever expected. We are grateful to the many talented people who have come forward to help us walk this path — carpenters, architects, managers, estimators, benefactors, and builders — so that we could re-create this wonderful space for Woolman Hill.

With the exterior restoration complete, the building is safe from undue deterioration, and awaits the interior and landscaping work that will complete the project.

The new, old meeting house is both a powerful reminder of Friends' history, and a vital place in which the Spirit is engaged today. Offering a connection to Friends' history and an opportunity to respond to Woolman Hill's contemporary needs, the North Dartmouth Meeting House represents both the past and future of New England Friends.

Capital Improvements

The Board has been busy working on many necessary initiatives to improve Woolman Hill. We have instituted a new traffic circulation pattern and have moved the main parking lot. (A map of Woolman Hill is on the back cover.) A new septic system is in place which will handle the waste water from all of Woolman Hill. We have built and filled a 12,000-gallon underground cistern to supply the fire department in case of fire.

Other capital needs have been identified as well, including making the buildings easier and less expensive to maintain, and more energy-efficient. Solar electric panels have already been installed as a demonstration project, and now supply more electricity than is required to power the administrative offices. Combined with solar hot water and energy-efficient lighting, these improvements have sharply reduced Woolman Hill's need for power from the energy grid, easing the impact of our activities on the land. And as Woolman Hill becomes an ever-smaller consumer of resources, we can focus on our programs — the center of Woolman Hill.



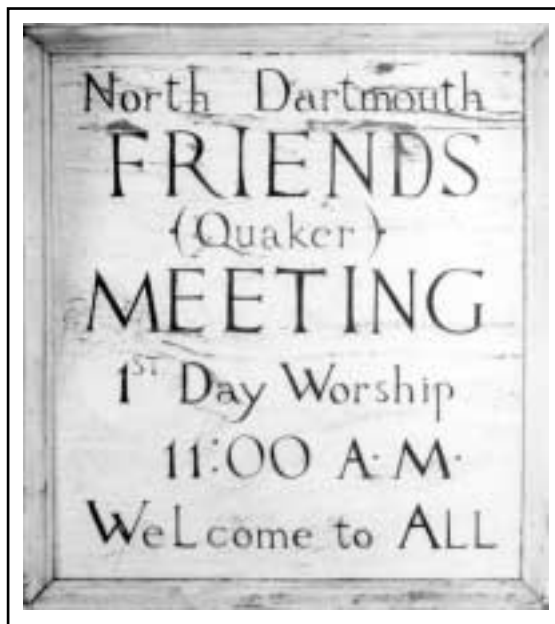
Architect's drawing of the plan for the interior of the North Dartmouth Meeting House.

How Does a Meeting House Help?

Having a real meeting house puts the physical center of worship at the center of Woolman Hill. It also frees up space for other uses, and permits us to be more creative in many ways.

Many of us have experienced the unique energy when our worship is supported by the worn floorboards and illuminated by the light of the wavy window panes of an old meeting house. It is as though the many past meetings are encouraging us to “center down”, to remember why we are there, and to recall those whose work we inherit. The serene simplicity of the Quaker worship space speaks powerfully even to those unconnected to Friends.

The restored North Dartmouth Meeting House is a seed newly planted, and it promises abundant fruits.



How You Can Help

Your contribution will enable Woolman Hill to grow in its mission to nurture New England Friends and the wider community. The generosity of many people — through gifts of labor, money, and expertise — have helped us come this far. We need your help to go farther.

Woolman Hill needs people like you to imagine where they can fit into the work of raising the money we need. To reach our goal of \$250,000, Woolman Hill needs gifts in the amounts shown here.

While fully paid gifts are most appreciated, we're also glad to receive pledges to be paid over a period of time. Contact information for Woolman Hill Executive Directors Daphne Bye and Mark Fraser, and for the members of the Woolman Hill Board of Directors, is inside the back cover. Woolman Hill is a 501(c) (3) Non Profit Organization. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

1	gift of	\$ 50,000	=	\$ 50,000
3	gifts of	20,000		60,000
5	gifts of	10,000		50,000
10	gifts of	5,000		50,000
20	gifts of	1,000		20,000
20	gifts of	500		10,000
50	gifts of	100		5,000
100	gifts of	50		5,000
		total:		\$ 250,000



One of the benches in the North Dartmouth Meeting House before disassembly.

Financial Summaries

Woolman Hill General Operating Budget (FY 2002)

Income	
Unrestricted gifts	\$ 27,585
Woolman Hill programs	23,000
Facilities rental revenue	67,002
Misc. & investment income	2,394
Total Income	\$ 119,981
Expense	
Personnel	\$ 60,290
Advertising/publicity	1,561
Conferences/BOD meetings	1,848
Printing & copying	4,017
Consultant fees	4,192
Town contrib. in lieu of taxes	2,000
Depreciation	9,672
Utilities	5,914
Insurance	6,440
Maintenance	2,025
Grounds maintenance	3,452
Office expense	750
Postage	1,128
Supplies	4,565
Tax – payroll	6,529
Telephone	1,763
Total Expense	\$ 116,146
Net Income	\$ 3,835

Woolman Hill Capital Campaign Budget

Expense	
Loan repayment*	\$ 35,000
Cost to complete restoration	150,000
Contingency	20,000
Campaign costs	10,000
Other WH capital needs	35,000
Total Capital Campaign	\$ 250,000

* Phase 1 restoration was partially funded by \$55,000 in loans.

Please Contact Us

Use the envelope included in this booklet to contact us by mail, or to request to be added to or removed from the Woolman Hill mailing list.

Woolman Hill Conference Center

107 Keets Road
Deerfield, MA 01342
(413) 774-3431

info@woolmanhill.org
www.woolmanhill.org

Executive Directors

Daphne Bye and Mark Fraser

Board of Directors

Mary Lee Morrison, Clerk
129 Penn Drive
West Hartford, CT 06119
860-232-2966
marylee898@attbi.com

David Ahlfeld
59 Blue Hills Road
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-5687
ahlfeld@ecs.umass.edu

Helen Armstrong
278 Wright's Mill Road
Coventry, CT 06238
860-742-8338
hcarmsrong@rcn.com

Don Campbell
113 Collier Cemetery Road
Northfield, MA 01360
413-498-0027
campbell@shaysnet.com

Arthur Fink
10 New Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
207-766-5722
arthur@arthurfink.com

Judy Hyde
278 Wright's Mill Road
Coventry, CT 06238
860-742-8338
jhamlinhyde@earthlink.net

Norm Janes
74 Machine Shop Hill
S. Windham, CT 06266
860-423-1932
nkjljanes@juno.com

Susan Leary
105 Mill Street
Amherst, MA 01002
413-549-3580
sleary@shaysnet.com

George Levinger
904 Bay Road
Amherst, MA 01002
413-253-9370
levinger@psych.umass.edu

Connie Littlefield
P O Box 44
Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-2220
clittlefield@cyberportal.net

Rick Morris
67 Atwood Road
Barrington, NH 03825
603-749-0649
barbara.morris@dover.lib.nh.us

Scott Nielsen
HC 60, Box 50
Charlestown, NH 03603
860-542-9368
Enielsen@cyberportal.net



The North Dartmouth Meeting House's overhead pulley system to raise and lower the panels dividing the men's monthly meeting from the women's.

Allison Randall
77 Pleasant Street, Apt Q
Greenville, NH 03048
603-878-2890
allisonjoyful@juno.com

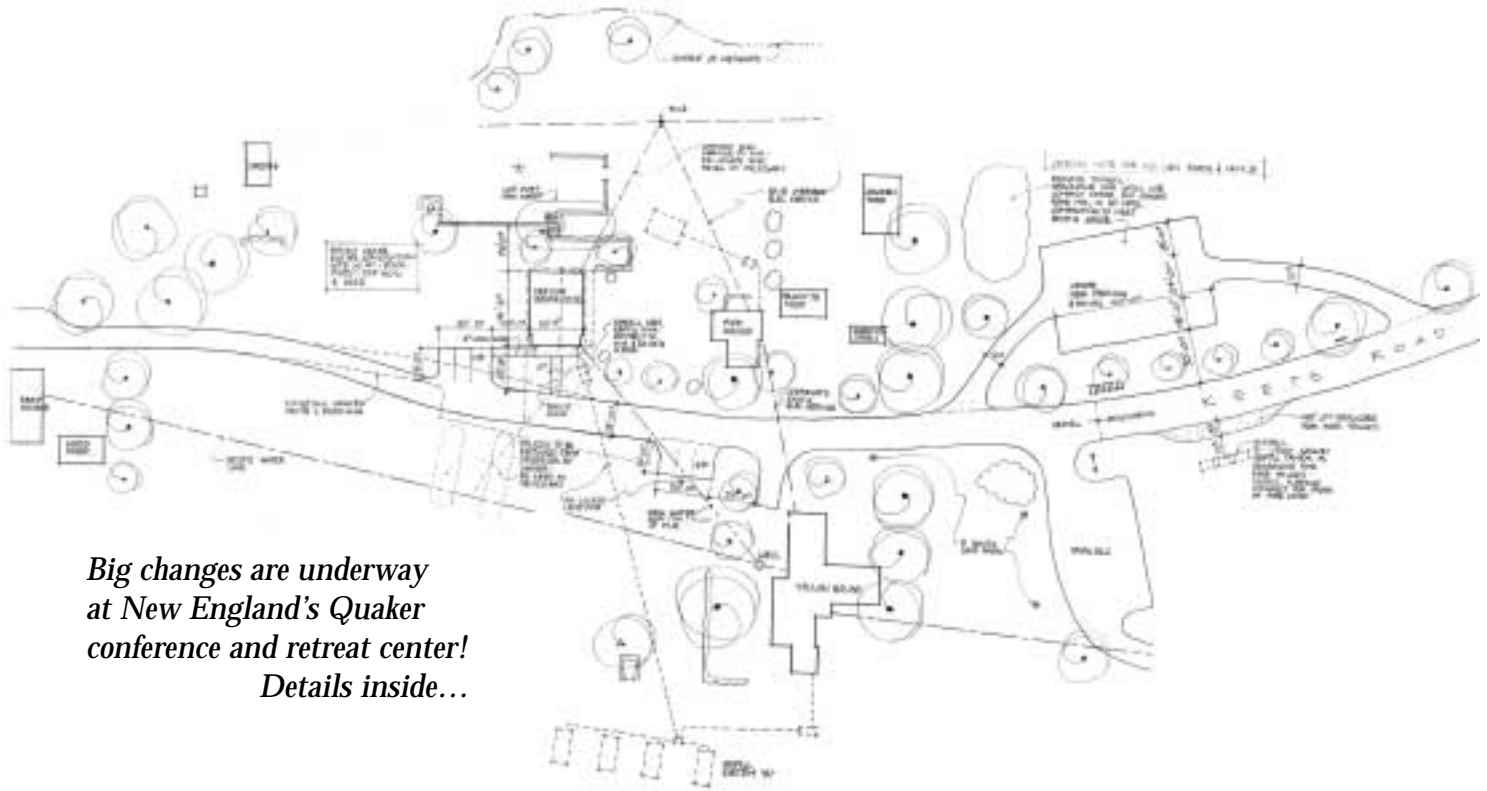
Rich Sivel
133 Milton Street
West Hartford, CT 06119
860-558-9436
rich.sivel@attbi.com

Susanna Thomas
16 Westwood Road
Storrs, CT 06268
860-429-2522
geneandsusanna@worldnet.att.net

Bill Walker
Converse Road
Temple, NH 03084
603-654-2719
itshimself@netzero.net

Martin Wheeler
56 North Beacon Street
Hartford, CT 06105
860-233-4789

Karen Will
227 Girard Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105
860-232-5253
kellycpw@aol.com



*Big changes are underway
at New England's Quaker
conference and retreat center!
Details inside...*

** Woolman Hill
107 Keets Road
Deerfield, MA 01342**

WOOLMAN HILL is a Quaker retreat and conference center situated on 110 acres in Western Massachusetts, off MA Route 5 south of Greenfield. Our accommodations include a 150-year-old farmhouse that sleeps 26 and has kitchen facilities to serve 50. Four small cabins provide up to 14 additional sleeping spaces, and are also available for private retreats and contemplative time.

Named for John Woolman, an 18th-century Friends' minister and abolitionist who preached simple living and economic and ecological responsibility, our rustic facilities offer a quiet, peaceful atmosphere for retreats, meetings, and functions.

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