

New York Yearly Meeting
Consent Agenda Procedure
DRAFT

For the past decade, NYYM has been using a consent agenda for some of its more routine and procedural business items in an effort to release time for more needed discussion. These items will have been seasoned by a committee and its coordinating committee, and are felt to be straightforward. Typically the consent agenda has included the list of recommended appointments from the Nominating Committee (when there is one) and Friends' requests for release from service.

In concert with the Liaison Committee, the Clerk determines specific items proposed for action without discussion. The items, clearly stated, are listed along with background information and contact people who can be approached with questions or concerns. General procedural questions and concerns can be brought to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

The consent agenda is to be published in a timely way before the Meeting gathers to act on it in order to give Friends opportunity to consider the matters and to address questions and concerns. For Fall and Spring sessions, this means distributing it electronically and making it available on the Yearly Meeting Web site at least three days in advance of the gathering. For Summer Sessions, the consent agenda should be posted several days before the Meeting will be asked to approve it.

If discussion with the contact person does not resolve concerns about an item, those issues are to be brought to the Clerk directly and immediately by either Friend. That item will be removed from the consent agenda. The Clerk then discerns whether to return the item to its originating committee, or to bring it to the Meeting for discussion.

The only exchange on the floor of the Meeting should be the Clerk asking the body if it approves the consent agenda, and the Meeting indicating its approval. If a Friend rises with a concern, that item is removed from the consent agenda and, as above, its dispensation is at the Clerk's discernment.

The minutes should record that the Meeting "approved minutes XX through XX in accord with the consent agenda." Each item is then listed as its own minute, according to the consent agenda.