

## **Draft Minutes**

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**AGM online – October 4, 2020, 12:10-2p.m.**

### **TBC Members present:**

Janice Priddy, Patrick Stone, Sonia, Ruvi, Marjorie, Robin Howe, Tim Wainright, Marsha Stonehouse, David Topp, Shawn Speirs, Sarah, Daniel Lai, Eleanor Pontoriero, Lynn Perry.

**Regrets:** Barb Robsen, June Gurvich

### **Begin with 5 minute meditation**

**Reviewing and re-committing to TBC's Meeting Guidelines as first adopted at the 2012 AGM.**

### **Zoom guidelines for the meeting:**

Put up your "Zoom" hand to speak.

Say your thought or opinion only once.

Discussion is limited to 3 minutes per person.

Please listen and speak with respect.

Members on mute except when speaking.

Members may have video on or off.

1. **Aim of our AGM zoom today** : To focus more on where we are going rather than where we have been. We will have another AGM to review what we have discussed today when in person meetings resume after COVID crisis.

2. **Adopt Agenda 2020 – Patrick proposes to adopt agenda, Robin seconds this.**

3. **Approve AGM 2019 Draft Minutes dated March 10, 2019 – email dated September 11<sup>th</sup> from Patrick to TBC. No comments. Robin approves draft minutes, and Tim seconds this.**

4. **Reviewing financials 2019 – Patrick is presenting this. (moved to last item, end of meeting)**

### **5. Action Items for 2020/2021**

**Executive Committee** - President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Proposal to transition from board to Steering Committee

Patrick speaks to this:

AGM was postponed earlier this year due to COVID lockdown. For the past fifteen years, we have had a board. We will now be moving to a new TBC model that is less hierarchical. A steering committee will take the place of the board. There are six TBC members in the new steering committee. These are Marjorie, Frances, Eleanor, Sarah, Tim and Patrick. This committee will have a rotating chair. Patrick will chair the first session. Patrick will also continue as treasurer. Positions will not have any function at this time but are a legal requirement. Thank to Lynn vice president, Tim treasurer, and Eleanor & Mevan as secretaries. Patrick officially stepped down in December 2019.

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### **Sunday Zoom Facilitators and review guidelines for the Facilitators**

Janice and Patrick speak to this:

Change of facilitator roles on Zoom – Eleanor, Frances, Janice, Marjorie, Patrick and Ruvi & tech hosts – Tim and Geoff; and now will include Sonia and David as tech hosts. Co-ordinating facilitators for discussion group: Marjorie will replace Janice.

New schedule for facilitators: opening chant & dedications, 45 minute meditation, 30 minute dhamma talk, 10 minute meditation, closing homage. This schedule will ensure that discussion groups begin on time as 12noon.

Janice says thank you to zoom facilitators.

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### **Days Of Mindfulness, Frequency, Number of Days**

Lynn speaks to this:

7 Sunday mornings with monastic teachers, 5 days of mindfulness with monastic teachers on Zoom

Thank you to Tim and Geoff for zoom tech support;

Thank you to zoom facilitators: Eleanor, Janice, Patrick, Marjorie, Frances, Lynn.

Thank you to those who offered dhamma requests – Eleanor, Jasna, Lynn.

2021 – There are no plans yet. We should make plans by end of the year before monastics begin their three month retreat beginning in January 2021.

### **Monastic Monthly Sundays.**

Sunday morning monthly zoom dhamma talks with monastic (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday): All in favour of continuing.

Patrick speaks to this: We will honor Curtis' intention to support Tisarana, and Sati Saraniya as all as Arrow River. During our monastic teachers' three month retreat, we may extend invitation to other Theravada monastic teachers, local or global.

Zoom attendance: 20-25 weekly, and approx. 40-50 for days of mindfulness. Janice says thank you to Tim, and says it is a beautiful TBC website.

### **Zoom Days of mindfulness:**

Lynn proposed 4 options – 1 day, 2 day, multiple days, or all of the above depending on availability.

**Results of Vote:** 10 members for 1 day, 6 members for 2 day, 1 for multiple days.

**Resolved** – We will continue with our current zoom offerings.

For 2021, we will invite our monastic teachers, Ajahn Viradhammao, Khemako, Ayya Medhanandhi and Ayya Anuruddha, and Ajahn Punnadhammo. Depending on his availability, Ajahn Pavaro will also be invited.

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### **Communications Committee**

Tim speaks to this:

Website recorded activity: 6512 users between September 1 2019 and August 31 2020; 3742 users; activity has increased in the past six months due to COVID; Access website by way of google, direct, rss (received an email)

Countries visiting our site – Canada, US., Asia, Oceania, Latin America

Cities visiting our site mainly Toronto and other town/cities in Ontario

How people connect with TBC: desktop 57.5%, 35% cellphone, 7.5% tablet.

New item: posting Sunday dhamma talks each week.

Thank you to Geoff for his TBC tech support. He will step down. Replaced by Sonya and David.

Email correspondence – from retreat past years, and via website 722 subscribed to email list

Responses to TBC updates 60%; 52% to TBC emails.

Patrick – thank you Tim for all you do.

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### **Weekly Discussion Groups on Zoom**

Janice speaks to this:

Two discussion groups facilitated by Eleanor and Janice after TBC Sunday meetings 12 noon-1pm.

This is better than the old model for connection, and practical reasons. We may consider a third discussion group during the week in the evening.

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### **Member Outreach: Younger and New Members**

Janice speaks to this:

As older people withdraw, there is a need for younger and newer people to join and step up; steering committee will review and discuss this issue.

### **Hybrid online and in-person TBC meetings?**

Patrick and Eleanor speak to this issue:

The need to offer online sessions in addition to in person meetings for weekly Sunday TBC meetings and discussion groups.

This hybrid model will support those who are elderly and ill in our community, as well as those who live out of town, or who have long commutes and family commitments.

Tim and Marsha suggest that TBC purchase a laptop for online meetings and groups.

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### **Patrick gives us financial report**

2019 sent out. No questions.

2020 bank account \$29 000.320;

Minimal expenses 22.60

Thank you gifts for morning dhamma talks \$100; \$200 for each day of mindfulness for Sati Saraniya Hermitage and Tisarana Monastery; \$400 for 2 day retreat.

April 2020 - Annual donation to Arrow River Hermitage \$1500, to Tisarana monastery \$500 and Sati Sarinaya Hermitage \$500

### **Suggestions on how to best use TBC extra funds:**

Tim proposes purchasing a laptop for online zoom sessions; Janice suggests a specific gift to Ayya what would be helpful for new kuti; Patrick suggests we offer a second round of donations of \$1500 to Arrow River Hermitage, \$500 to Tisarana, and \$500 to Sati Saraniya Hermitage as well as a specific gift needed for Ayya Medhanandhi's new kuti. Janice motions & Tim seconds motion. Unanimous. Passed.

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### **An annual honorarium (financial thank you) to Patrick for TBC's bookkeeping.**

Patrick to leave the Zoom meeting for this discussion. Janice makes the motion that TBC will offer an annual honorarium to Patrick of \$1500 for his bookkeeping in 2020. Tim seconds the motion. Patrick returns. Janice offers honorarium to Patrick. He says thank you to TBC.

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### **Other Business**

Ruvi raises issue of having traditional Theravada and Buddhist teachings during weekly Sunday TBC meetings. Janice proposes that steering committee discuss this issue. All agreed.

**Meeting ends at approximately 2:45pm.**