

TE Gakyil Meeting Minutes for 12/12/24

Present: Marsha Ellison, Alex Daggett, Ellen Halbert, Cindy Thibeau, Lauri Marder

Quick recap:

The meeting covered a range of administrative and operational topics, including scheduling recurring meetings, addressing technical issues, and discussing financial matters related to rent payments and budgeting. The team also focused on community-related subjects, such as accommodations for visitors, cabin maintenance, and potential improvements to facilities like composting toilets and soundproofing. Additionally, they touched on recent events, upcoming retreats, and the well-being of community members, concluding with discussions about donations and membership outreach.

Topics discussed and next steps:

Recurring Meeting Scheduling and Issues. There is a new zoom account set up that will be used for Gakyil meetings so that there is no concern for overlap with other meetings. Current schedule of Gakyil meetings is bi-weekly, Thursdays at 5PM.

SSI Rent Payments

Payments for rent need to be received by the end of the year. Cleaning services are being arranged for the schoolhouse kitchen. Additional cleaning services are needed for the retreat cabins in the Spring.

Practitioner's Stay at Rinpoche's Cabin

A practitioner from New Zealand and their partner asked to be allowed to stay at Rinpoche's cabin for 3-4 weeks in June in exchange for work (karma yoga) during that time.

Cabin Repairs and Volunteer Deployment

The team discussed the need for repairs and improvements to Rinpoche's cabin, including siding and staining. They considered the possibility of renting the cabin for the summer and the need for volunteer labor. The team agreed on the need for more volunteers and the importance of setting clear priorities for the work to be done.

Accommodation Offer and Concerns

Accommodation options for summer retreats with international teachers is being investigated, including preparing Rinpoche's cabin and house or other rentals.

Composting Toilet Options Discussed

Composting toilet options were discussed. Proposals will be sent.

Yeshi's Invitation and Rinpoche's Birthday

An invitation to visit Tsegylgar and assist with acoustics planning for the Vajra Hall was sent to Yeshi.

A review of the events celebrating Rinpoche's birthday was described as wonderful.

Dark Retreat

The team discussed the possibility of converting the second bedroom in the farmhouse into a dark retreat space. The team agreed to consider this idea of a dark retreat and to discuss it further. The team concluded that they need to find a balance between their dark retreat program and the need for additional accommodation space.

Budget Discussion and Donations

There was a recent donation. Further discussion is needed about selecting priorities for capital repairs and development and funding. A warm welcome letter to encourage rejoining will be sent.

The meeting ended with dedication.