



TSEGYALGAR EAST GAKYIL MEETING AGENDA

September 12, 2021 4pm via Zoom

Present: Mark Allston-Follansbee, India Lehr-Farrier, Wayne Bianucci, John LaFrance, John Shannon, Miranda Shannon, Laurie Richards, Cindy Thibeau, Will Shea, Naomi Zeitz, Phuntsog Wangmo, Nancy Paris

Moderator: Mark Alston-Follansbee

Minutes Taker: Emily

Guru Yoga

Tsegylgar East Staff Updates

- Thank You to our retiring staff, David Hayes as Gekö and John Shannon as Administrative Manager

Election for additional members of Gakyil

- Candidate introductions
- Vote: 2 new Gakyil members unanimously voted in. India Lehr-Farrier elected as Blue. Wayne Bianucci elected as Red. Both decided to join during Summer Sangha Retreat.

Yellow report: Our Administrative Manager, John Shannon is resigning after approximately 5 years working with the community. The Gakyil thanks him for his work over the years.

- The Gakyil came to the decision to transition to local Bookkeeper, who has been working for us locally with our administrative manager. The plan is for them to add 10 hrs /month for recording payments and bookkeeping. They will work with our CPA.
- Cindy, as Secretary will help with local payments and mail collection. Yellow will be more involved in going over our finances and budgeting on a regular basis.
- Yellow: Draft P & L, membership income is down (-\$10k), pretty consistent in actual # of members
- Books are in the Black and we hope to keep that way

Blue Report:

- Shared upcoming Programming - Opening the Door to Practice with Steve Landberg. Over 100 people on e-mail list (from people seeking transmission and



past participants). Suggestion made to contact Merigar and share with people who received Yeshe Silvano Namkhai's transmission.

- 3 yr anniversary of Rinpoche's passing: Practices at Khandroling scheduled for Sept 27th

Red Report:

- Transition- working with David Hayes on week to week basis to cover what's needed
- Updating Bath-house: \$4200 spent. Thanks to Wayne and John Foster for their work.
- Hiring Gary's 4 Season's Landscaping for mowing and brush hogan when needed
- Wayne as Red is handling Accommodations bookings requests
- Introducing the Schoolhouse Fact-finding Project
- Referenced this Submitted report:

July 2021 Summer Celebration - Because of the Worldwide Online Dance program with Prima Mai, this year's Summer Celebration required the community to conduct two events simultaneously. One challenge involved streaming the online Vajra Dance program from the Vajra Hall. Fortunately Bodhi was able to identify all the technical issues and equipment requirements to allow the Vajra Dance retreat to function smoothly. Red Gakyil arranged for the purchase of all the audio/visual equipment and Bodhi installed them expertly. Among the equipment purchased is a 65inch television monitor on a moveable stand that will be available for future online teachings in the gompa.

An associated challenge was the unfinished resurfacing of the Universal Mandala which required us to remove a large portion of the plastic sheeting around the entire interior of the Vajra Hall while allowing access to the partially restored surface without damaging the unfinished surface. Meanwhile a smaller separate set of practices were conducted in a rented tent placed near the base of the newly restored stupa. Despite the challenges the retreats were conducted smoothly with easy access to portapotties, drinking water and hand washing.



During the Celebration Wayne Bianucci served as a kind of “land geko”, running the four-wheel drive vehicle to deliver materials and water to the different venues. After the retreat Wayne became a candidate for the Red Gakyil and has been serving in the role since that time.

Resurfacing of the Universal Mandala - Update to be provided at the meeting.

Khandroling Bathhouse - With the supervision of John Foster, the bathhouse is in the process of being renovated. The entire plumbing infrastructure has been replaced at a cost of \$4200. The extremely hot weather curtailed work on the project during the summer. However, John and Wayne are continuing to work on the floors and walls and fixtures and hope to complete the renovation during the Fall.

Geko Retirement - David Hayes, our long-term Geko, retired at the beginning of September. Without a replacement the Gakyil is in the process of adapting strategies to maintain our multiple facilities. Initially we are contracting with a landscaping firm to handle all the mowing and brush hogging on Upper and Lower Khandroling, the farmhouse and the schoolhouse. Meanwhile there remain other tasks that require attention in the near-term and David has agreed to continue on an “as-needed” basis to address those needs. Over time we will need to find other ways to maintain our properties within our constrained budget.

Schoolhouse Fact Finding Group -The Red Gakyil is coordinating a group to establish a baseline of facts about the Conway Schoolhouse including the condition of the physical facilities, the costs of operation and the usage by all groups and purposes. It is anticipated that the group will prepare a report for consideration at a future Community Meeting. Details of the groups mission is below:

CONWAY SCHOOLHOUSE FACT-FINDING GROUP MISSION



The Dzogchen Community in America, Tsegylgar East (TE) has owned the Conway Massachusetts Schoolhouse since 1994. The Schoolhouse has provided space for offices, library, bookstore, dormitories, teaching and mediation. Portions of the Schoolhouse are rented by the Tibetan Medicine School for teaching and residential purposes. With the many changes that are occurring in the TE Community, a current assessment of the facility and its uses are needed. The purpose of the Fact Finding Group is to provide the following:

PHYSICAL FACILITY - provide the following information:

- Is there asbestos in any areas of the building?
- What is the condition of the blown-in insulation? Is it still in place?
- What is the condition of the roof? What if any repairs are needed and what are the options?
- What are the conditions of the basic plumbing and heating systems?
- Any other issues related to the physical facility

FINANCIAL ISSUES - provide the following information:

- What are the current annual maintenance costs for the facility?
- What are the mortgage and insurance costs?
- What is the current rental income?
- What are the cost estimates for any of the physical facility repairs?
- Any other financial issues?

FACILITY USAGE - provide the following information:

- What space is occupied by SSI and what percentage of the overall space is this?
- How many days per year does SSI utilize the teaching spaces of the library, offices and gompa?
- What spaces does TE utilize and how many days/month?
- How else is the facility being used?

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE - Based on the information gathered on the above questions, what are some possible options for the TE Community to consider for its future facility needs?



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Discussion

- Filling gekö role - seeking local point person for guest
- Helping guests....
 - Wayne to e-mail locals if help is needed with guests: 4 volunteers offered to help be available for rides, preparing cabins/schoolhouse, coordinating with guests)

- Programming - interest in in-person/online courses
 - What do people want? Some suggestions were made.
 - Bringing in new International teachers via Zoom.
 - Phuntsog offered to do programming, School of Tibetan Medicine

Dedication of Merit