

NHS Board of Directors Meeting
June 14, 2011
7:00pm

In attendance were John Orr, Jim Jarvis, Tom Barrie, Pam Chastain, Kathleen Gleiter, Bill Smith, and Beth O'Brien

I. Meditation

II. Acceptance of March 1st Minutes

Change spelling: Poly to Pali.

III. Guest Teachers

John will not be able to attend the next Tuesday sitting. Jim was chosen to lead and will discuss the sixteenth chapter of *Mindfulness in Plain English*. Jim will send out an email with a link to the chapter posted on the NHS website.

IV. Editor of the Newsletter

Pam has asked someone and is waiting for a response.

V. Reorganizing/Cleaning Out the Sangha's Blue Box

Bill and Beth will clean this out next Tuesday after the sitting.

VI. Sangha Directory

The board discussed a suggestion from the State of the Sangha questionnaires to form a sangha directory; both positive and negative effects were considered. It could be viewed as a positive asset, serving as a community building tool and helping members connect with one another outside of Tuesday nights. Adversely, it creates the potential for personal information to fall prey to spammers. John mentioned that Deep Springs and Southern Dharma have very nice published directories. He also thought it would be helpful to have a retreat directory. Pam and Beth volunteered to work up a few models of how a directory could be managed.

VI. Social Committee

- A. Dharma & Company has been meeting every month. It's going very well with regular attendance of about eight people.
- B. Future events may include a gathering at Kathleen's house, fall picnic, bowling, holiday gathering, and celebrating the Buddha's enlightenment.
- C. John would like to see a new event planned for the fall.

VII. Calendar

Jim will look at online calendars to see if he can find one that would work with the website. Sittings, social events, retreats and anything else helpful to the community will be listed.

VIII. Spring Retreat Report

There were seventeen participants, surpassing the break even point by two. This year, because of Venture Fourth's timing, the retreat had to be held in June instead of May. Experience has shown that it works better to have the retreat earlier rather than later. Jim mentioned that a

theme would be very helpful for advertising future retreats. Preplanning with Barbara would also be helpful seeing that she may be traveling to Brazil next May. John will talk with her about her schedule and inform Jim so he'll have the information needed before the next retreat committee meeting.

IX. Teacher Training Program

John plans to organize the teacher training program during the end of June and early July, hoping it will begin in July or August. There will be no more than eight to ten students and it will be a two year program. Barbara and Aaron have shared the structure of the program they developed. John will begin inviting people soon, informing them on the length, expectations, etc. John feels this will be very helpful to the sangha when he begins to step back.

X. ERUFF Availability

John will contact ERUFF about the possibility of renting the ERUFF space three times per month. If available, the board will discuss increasing the monthly sittings to three.

XI. 501-C3

A. Filing Process: Tim has sent John the completed articles of incorporation. Tim needs to write a conflict of interest policy. John needs to answer questions on form 223 from the IRS. These are the last actions NHS needs to take. The timing depends on the IRS review but hopefully NHS will receive its nonprofit status this fall. Tax deductible contributions and a NHS bank account are the two main reasons this change in status has been pursued.

B. Bank Account: John and Bill will need to go to the bank together to become authorized signers for the account. Suntrust has no monthly fee if \$1000 is kept in the account. Currently, NHS has \$2442 and John reports that this figure generally stays over \$1000. Bill feels strongly that we should entrust NHS money to a socially responsible bank. Bill and John will look into finding a financial institution that meets this criteria (ex: SECU and Self Help Credit Union).

C. Bank Account Uses: Stamps, postage, office expenses, and all other NHS business expenses will come out of the account. Currently, NHS pays the ERUFF rent in cash, but after the account is established we will be able to pay by check. John and other teachers' dana will continue to be personal and not deposited into the NHS account.

XII. Friends of Stonehouse

Stonehouse is having a fund raiser and has asked NHS for support. A five year commitment at varying levels was suggested. Board members see NHS's participation at Stonehouse extending into the next five years and therefore feel comfortable with a five year commitment. It was decided that \$200 would be donated immediately and then it will be NHS's intention to donate approximately \$200 two times per year, after each spring/fall retreat, beginning this fall. The money would come out of the retreat surplus and donations.

XIII. Morrison Correctional Center

The Morrison Correctional Center near Aberdeen is starting a Buddhist group and is in need of materials and instruction. This is a totally new group with no experience. Feeling that a "trained" teacher is not necessary, John will put an email out to the entire sangha to see who would like to volunteer. Ideally, someone would go down once per month; it would not have to be the same teacher each time. Jim and Pam voiced their interest. Bill suggested that Hart,

having had experience collecting money for books to help prisoners, may have some good advice. Money, books, Inquiring Minds, and Vipassana instruction sheets were all suggested as possible donations.

XIV. Future Board Meetings

Tom suggested that the board meet four times per year, one for each season: September, December, March and June. The State of the Sangha meeting could be held in September (target date set for Sept. 20), before the fall retreat and following a board meeting. All were in agreement.

Next meeting: September 1st, 7pm at Jim and Pam's house.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10pm.