

**Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**September 8, 2011 at Birken Forest Monastery**

AGENDA:

1. **Attendance**
2. **Minutes of last year's AGM (September 10, 2010)**
3. **Matters arising**
4. **President's Report (Ven. Sona)**
  - a. **Monastic Training**
  - b. **Retreats and events held at the monastery and off site**
  - c. **Monastic comings & goings**
  - d. **Building / Improvements / Projects**
  - e. **Concluding remarks**
5. **Financial Report: (Linda Furrow & Kanthi Randeni)**
6. **Board of Directors:** This is a voting year:
  - Ajahn Sona – President
  - Ven Subharo – Vice president
  - Tom Frisby – Treasurer
  - Linda Furrow – Secretary
  - John Derk – member at large
7. **Motions:**

That \$50,000 of our accumulated Canadian savings and \$10,000 of our US dollar savings, be placed in a secure interest-bearing investment approved by the Board.

That the 2012 AGM be held at Birken Forest Monastery on, **September 8, 2012.**

Adjourn

### **1. Attendance:**

Ajahn Sona, Ven Subharo, Sister Mon, Anagarika John Derk, Linda Furrow, Andrea Pixley, Dilani Hippola, Amin Kabani, Ralph & Irma West, Kanthi & Gamini Randeni, Leslie Hanrahan, Matt Gindin, Armando Sayson.

### **2. Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING September 10, 2010 at Birken, accepted as printed (moved by Linda, seconded by John, unanimous):**

1. Attendance: A total of 8 members & 5 guests attended the meeting
2. Minutes of last year's AGM (October 20, 2009) accepted as read
3. Matters arising (none)
4. President's Report (Ven. Sona) accepted as read
5. Financial Report (Tom Frisby) accepted as read
6. Board of Directors: This is a non-voting year:
  - George Robinson stepped down from the board when he left Birken in December, 2009.
  - Gordon McKusick was drafted as a short-term director in June 2010, and departed in July.
  - John Derk is nominated as director, and third signing authority for cheques.Moved by Ajahn Sona, seconded by Linda Furrow, carried unanimously.

#### 7. Motions:

that the 2011 AGM be held at Birken Forest Monastery on, September 11, 2011.  
Moved by Linda Furrow seconded by Ajahn Sona.  
Carried unanimously.

to adjourn the 2010 AGM.  
Moved by Ajahn Sona seconded by Ven. Subharo.  
Carried unanimously.

### **3. Matters arising: (none)**

#### 4. President's Report:

##### a. Monastic Training

Bhikkhu Subharo and Anagarika John continue to train at Birken under Ajahn Sona as *acariya*.

Ven. Pavaro is training in Thailand; Ven Suvaco is training at Abhayagiri, absorbing community life in the monastery led by his preceptor, Ajahn Pasanno.

Sister Mon has returned to Birken and is actively engaged in supporting Ajahn Sona in his travels & teaching.

##### b. Retreats and Events

Unless otherwise indicated, all events listed below were at Birken Forest Monastery and led by Ajahn Sona:

Sept 19 (Kamloops)	morning meditation / talk
Sept 24 – Oct 3	10-day retreat
Oct 10-22 (Ottawa)	10-day jhana retreat ordination of Bhikkhu Athulo
October 27-31 (Edmonton)	5-day retreat, Ven Pavaro
Oct 31 (Kamloops)	morning meditation / talk
Nov 5-8 (Vancouver)	Kathina celebration
November (Sechelt)	retreat , Ven Pavaro
Nov 28	morning meditation / talk
Dec 20 (Kamloops)	morning meditation / talk
Jan 1 – March 30, 2010	Annual Winter Retreat
Jan 30 Feb 27 March 27 (Kamloops) April 24 May 29 June 19	morning meditation / talk
April 15-17 (Kelowna)	public talk & day retreat
May 6-8	Absolute Beginner weekend retreat
June 19-29	10-day retreat for Pacific Hermitage monks & supporters, led by Ajahns Sona & Sudanto
June 25 (Penticton)	Ajahn Sona TED talk

### **c. Monastic comings & goings:**

Ven Pavaro joined the Birken community in Vancouver for the Kathina celebration, and then visited Birken for a month before departing for Thailand with his preceptor Ajahn Pasanno. He returned to Birken for three weeks in May due to the death of his father, and then after a whirlwind tour of visits to family and Monasteries in Canada & the UK, he returned to Thailand for the Rains Retreat. He plans to spend the next two years training in Thailand.

Ven Khemaratana visited Birken for a month in November/December.

Ven Dhammavaro disrobed in December, returning to lay life in Calgary.

Sister Mon returned to Birken in April.

Ajahn Saññoamo visited Birken for two weeks during winter retreat.

In May Bhikkhuni Sudinna visited for a day, and Ven Suvaco transferred to Abhayagiri.

In June Ajahn Sudanto, Ven Caganando, Ven Pamutto from Pacific Hermitage visited Birken for a 10-day retreat with supporters from Portland area.

### **d. Building / Improvements /Projects**

Fine-tuning of the domestic heating & hot water systems continued throughout the summer & fall. Substantial time & effort went into restructuring of plumbing; this summer a concrete box was built for the boiler connections at a cost of \$2000.

Purchase of electric pressure washer & Clog Hog drain cleaner \$300

Purchase of a new kitchen stove (without electric glow bar) \$1000

Insulated shutters were constructed & installed on some windows of the Sala in the fall of 2010. Insulation was installed in the attic to a value of R80, at a cost of \$3000.

Major renovations & redecoration of the Vihara guest rooms was undertaken with the kind assistance of Holger Schramm, from November through the winter retreat.

\$18,000

In mid-winter we purchased firewood from a local supplier when our supply ran out; we will continue to either purchase firewood or hire someone to gather, cut & split. This provides much convenience and savings of Bhikkhu time & effort.

Insulated shutters were constructed for more of the Sala windows, and insulated interior shutters for the basement windows were begun by a volunteer carpenter, with much fine-tuning by Ajahn Sona and Sister Mon ongoing at this time.

A new office computer was acquired at the cost of \$1000; much of this was kindly donated by Doug Perry. It is currently at his location in Vancouver being set up.

Darin Fiorenza has donated programming time to create a new donations database system.

Troubles were encountered with the inverters and charging system for the battery bank. An integrated inverter-charger system was ordered; but it was unable to address all of our concerns and a last-minute visit by a technician from Energy Alternatives resolved the issues and answered our questions. The new system was canceled at a savings of nearly \$10,000.

Arrangements were made for overhaul & refurbishing of our aging Kubota diesel generator. Cost \$3000 for next fiscal year.

**e. Concluding remarks**

Ajahn Sona will spend a week in Vancouver this fall, creating a “monastery” at Baldwin house, attending a Paa Pah ceremony, giving an evening talk, and a day-retreat at UBC.

Blinds & shutters for the Sala and basement will complete our energy-savings initiatives for the year.

In January 2012 Ajahn will attend the Gathering of Elders at WPN, and then lead a group tour of Sri Lanka.

Next year is planned as a low-activity year, undertaking no new projects and only doing what is necessary for upkeep and maintenance. We've worked hard for 10 years; now we take a year off projects & tasks.

Goal \$100K in savings by next year-end.

## 5. Financial Report:

We are happy to welcome Kanthi Randeni, our able bookkeeper & accountant, to the AGM this year. Her prompt delivery of the Financial Reports has allowed us to have the AGM a month earlier than usual for the last two years.

Our donation stream and our expenses are fairly consistent from year to year. The contingency fund recommended 6 years ago has slowly come into being, so that we now have 6 months' operating expenses in savings, to provide for 'anicca' experiences of unexpected capital expenses or reduction of donations. We are now considering moving this contingency fund into an interest-bearing redeemable term deposit.

Donations have declined during the past two years of economic downturn.

Donations this year were down 7% from last year; 10% less than the average of the eight preceding years. The number of donations is rising, which bodes well for the future when the economy recovers, and is a heartening sign that the Dhamma is appreciated.

Fiscal Year	"Ordinary" dana stream	Extraordinary donations	Total Donations	Number of donations
<b>2002-03</b>	105,817.53	76,056.00	181,873.53	546
<b>2003-04</b>	140,244.18	50,000.00	190,244.18	601
<b>2004-05</b>	124,010.70		124,010.70	603
<b>2005-06</b>	146,243.20	36,335.40	182,578.60	643
<b>2006-07</b>	121,863.14	60,800.00	182,663.14	533
<b>2007-08</b>	135,118.63		135,118.63	632
<b>2008-09</b>	138,494.98	33,000.00	171,494.98	658
<b>2009-10</b>	123,893.13	35,860.91	159,754.04	717
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,035,685.49</b>	<b>292,052.31</b>	<b>1,327,737.80</b>	
<b>Avg</b>	<b>129,460.69</b>	<b>48,675.39</b>	<b>165,967.23</b>	
% of average	102.9%	31.7%	89.6%	
<b>2010-11</b>	133,272.30	15,412.00	148,684.30	719

Clear vision coupled with prudent management has led to a small positive cash flow each year, with capital projects undertaken as funds become available. No new debt has been incurred for many years now, and the one remaining loan (interest-free) is being paid down steadily at a reasonable rate, agreeable to Birken and our lender.

Our liquid assets at year end are up from \$77,000 last year to \$100,000 this year.

(see attached Financial Reports, unaudited)

## **6. Board of Directors:**

This is a voting year; the current board stands for election; there are no nominations:

Ajahn Sona – President  
Ven Subharo – Vice president  
Tom Frisby – Treasurer  
Linda Furrow – Secretary  
John Derk – member at large

By acclimation.

## **7. Motions:**

That \$50,000 of our accumulated Canadian savings and \$10,000 of our US dollar savings, be placed in a secure interest-bearing investment approved by the Board.

**(moved by Linda, seconded by John, unanimous)**

That the 2012 AGM be held at Birken Forest Monastery on, **September 8, 2012.**

**(moved by Ajahn Sona, seconded by Linda, unanimous)**

To adjourn the 2011 AGM.

**(moved by Linda, seconded by Ajahn Sona, unanimous)**