

EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2021 (ongoing)

Sykpe Video-Call, Jan. 31st 2021

Present: Leyna Garrettson, Marcie Winstanley, Peter Doubtfire, Paul Schock, Thea Thorek, Lena Hofmaier, George Thurley

CC 2021.01 Reflections on AM

We meet for our first gathering as Communication Committee using Skype. Annual Meeting has passed and in our reflections we look back on our experiences with the regular jitsi meetings and communication that followed Annual Meeting. We have heard that some members of our community are not yet aware of the new role holders' names, and will send a communication to all, introducing ourselves as the new CC. We also heard that jitsi meetings have been diverse and varied, offering a space that has helped Friends to reconnect after AM, which now feels far away to those who attended. Jitsi meetings may benefit from a little more organisation, and we will search for someone willing to take up an informal organiser role.

CC 2021.02 Domain compensation

We heard from George Thurley that the domain transfer has already happened and is being hosted jointly with QCEA's domain, with the EMEYF secretary helping to manage this. The transfer of the domain moved from an account hosted by Georg Adelman, to the QCEA domain after a period of non communication between CC and Georg, as he wished to close his domain, and asked to be reimbursed for the costs. Georg had indicated that a partial reimbursement would be possible. CC had asked George (minute CC 2020/17) to clarify the amount of Georg's costs and options for a partial reimbursement, that would acknowledge shared responsibility. The proposed amount that Georg has calculated to be reimbursed by CC is approximately 414.59 euros, so the what proportion of this we should pay, is still a question before our meeting today. The suggestion for a 50% reimbursement was proposed by Georg originally. We have reached a sense that the meeting feels our best option would be to reimburse Georg in full, suggesting an optional donation to EMEYF, in the interests of fairness and finding a conclusion to the questions to which CC is discerning answers today. We thank George for his involvement and giving us an overview of the context for our discernment, and thank Georg for hosting our website for so many years. We ask Pete Doubtfire to communicate our discernment to Georg.

CC 2021.03 EMEYF list moderator and QCEA Secretary contact

We discussed the possibility of adding a moderator for the EMEYF mailing list, who would approve incoming emails before they are sent out to the wider community. This would allow other members of CC as well as the clerking team to be involved in communications. We thank Pete Doubtfire for joining as an additional moderator. For the communication with the QCEA Secretary, we thank Lena Hofmaier for taking the role of contact person for EMEYF, and also note that there will be a new EMEYF Secretary at QCEA in the coming months. Lena will replace George Thurley and Lisa Specht, who have asked to be released from their roles as contact people for the EMEYF Secretary.

CC 2021.04 Appointing Trustees

With the closing of Annual Meeting, Lisette Nijboer and Esther Köhring have asked to be released from service as Trustees. We remind ourselves of the meaning of Trusteeship, and discern how to move forward together. We thank Leyna Garrettson and Paul Schock for joining our existing Trustees as new members.

Sykpe Video-Call, Feb 13th 2021

Present: Leyna Garrettson, Marcie Winstanley, Peter Doubtfire, Paul Schock, Thea Thorek, Lena Hofmaier, Liam Brighton

CC 2021.05 A Quaker Podcast

We heard from our clerks that Hugh O'Farrell Walsh has reaffirmed his proposal to start a Podcast with Quaker Themes. Our discernment brought forward to reach out to the wider community as well as the Willy and Penn Editorial team to seek individuals who feel called to form a team to move this idea forward with Hugh. We thank Lena Hofmaier for moving forward with this.

CC 2021.06 SG Planning Committee report

We heard from Paul Schock that the Summer Gathering Planning Committee had their first meeting and have decided to move forward with planning the gathering as it has stood, keeping an awareness for the Covid situation and taking into consideration that the current covid situation might result in travel plans changing at short notice.

With the switch of the domain, the planning committee has lost access to the springgathering@emeyf.org email address. Paul Schock will clarify if there has been a loss of documents through this. We will ask the planning committee if they require any older files on the email server or just need access for registration purposes.

In regard to the possibility of setting up a new email address, we have heard that it may be possible to set this up a new email address with the QCEA domain, but we will need to discern if this is something we want to do.

CC 2021.07 Role-holder specific email addresses

We invited thoughts, concerns and questions in relation to the possibility of creating emails that could be used by role-holders and passed forward during handovers, to help us discern the right way forward. We considered the advantages and disadvantages of creating such email addresses, especially as we have heard today that it is easy to lose access to email addresses due to domain changes or personal reasons. Having considered many concerns and comments, the sense of the meeting was that the pros outweighed the cons. We then moved forward to discuss the practical arrangements for which provider to use. We have also considered following the example of other Quaker organisations using freemail providers to unify their communications systems or using an affordable email provider that might give us better data security. If possible, we would prefer remaining within the QCEA domain structure. We thank Pete Doubtfire for moving forward with clarifying if there is a possibility of setting up role-holder specific emails through the QCEA domain.