Lore Detenber joined the first part of the meeting to discuss the governance research that she and Ruth have been doing. Through their interviews with 5 sanghas, it’s clear that that different sanghas have different issues to navigate. Some areas Lore and Ruth have especially been exploring have been community building, structure and decision-making. The Board and Lore discussed other possible sanghas to talk to. The Board and Lore also discussed the option of having a Town Hall to bring the sangha research to the IWM community and to provide an open space to hear the sangha’s thoughts. It was agreed that a Town Hall would be held on the evening of Aug. 25.

The Board also discussed reopening the center and the possibility of offering hybrid dharma talks/retreats/courses. The Board thought it may be best to be selective about when we use the hybrid format, considering how tricky that format can be. The Board discussed the need for investing in some technology to make hybrid offerings a possibility. As the Scheduling Committee considers how to fill in the open slots in the Wednesday Dharma Talk schedule, the Board approved inviting teachers to give Dharma talks via Zoom in the fall. The Board also expressed the desire to get feedback during the Aug. 25th Town Hall regarding the reopening of the center. The Board discussed having some in-person offerings starting in September and considered logistical questions around how to make that possible.

Additional items discussed:

- Fundraising, especially next steps for sending out a fundraising letter to the sangha.
- How to connect further with Practice Leaders, such as by inviting them to a Board meeting.
- The desire to regularly add in a message from the Board in IWM’s email newsletters.
- An in-person Sangha Steward/Volunteer appreciation event in October.
- The Board went into executive session.
- Treasurer report: As of July 8th, thus far in 2021, IWM expenses (exp: $38,758.39) have exceeded our income (inc: $26,808.77) by $11,949.62.
- The Board approved minutes from the May 13, May 20, June 10, and June 17 meetings.