

Transition Amherst – April 14, 2011 Meeting notes

Present: Bernard Brennan (facilitator), Molly Falsetti-Yu, Jon Kent, Betsy Krogh (notes), Gabor Lukacs (host), Mona Naimark, Dick and Judy Stein, Peter Swift

People are encouraged to post announcements to the Transition Amherst google group.

Sustainability Festival, April 23: We have reserved a space to table, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. We will have sign up sheets and brochures (Betsy will print). Gabor procured barrels but Oil Memorial construction will be postponed until people with passion and time to do it come forward. Betsy has table, chairs. Bernard has a tent. Betsy has signs from last year.

Three activities were discussed: 1) Big map of Amherst (Betsy getting from Conservation Dept.) mounted on a foam core or homesote board (Betsy will get?) leaning on or fastened to Gabor's new bike trailer. People will be invited to write (on slips/ postits/or?) groups, people with whom we might want to get connected and post in circles overlaying map for different sub topics (food, transportation, energy etc.). Heading might read "Transition Amherst – working together to build a more resilient community" 2) On big sheets of paper (Betsy has pad, Jon has easel) people will be invited to write their ideas of "What a post-carbon Amherst could look like" Perhaps phrased as "positive visions". Another phrasing suggested was "moving toward a more sustainable post carbon Amherst. 3) If we have more than one person during a shift, the second person could go around to other "vendors" at Festival and network, connect, find out what they do and see who interested in connecting with us.

Betsy will send around a sign up sheet to see who can do what and when.

Initiating Group Retreat May 8: This will be a chance for us all to meet for three hours and conduct an inventory of our work so far. Jon and Peter will consult with Brendan who has volunteered to facilitate, to support him, offer co-facilitation, and continue in the work of organizing, developing a revised draft plan. Event will be a potluck, from 4 – 7 p.m. at Mona's house 62 North Prospect Street. Our homework before the event is to think about the four questions: Tell us about yourself; What has the group achieved so far; How do you feel about the group so far; Where do we want to go from here?

Transition Trainer Tina Clarke will join us at our meeting **Thursday, May 12** to hear how it is going with us and share her knowledge of the Transition model and what has worked in other communities working on Transition.

Bicycle Week May 14 – 20: We will table on the Common on Friday morning, May 20 at the Commuter Breakfast and bicycle exhibit. Who can help with this?

Amherst Master Plan: Peter read and sent around excerpts of this recently adopted town document. How do our visions of the transition to a post carbon Amherst connect to this plan? Peter urges us to read the excerpts closely so we can discuss further in the future. What is already happening in town? What is missing? Which parts interest you? What has already been implemented?

Initiating Group recruits: Bernard put out his wish list for people to join or work closely with the Transition Amherst initiating group: a strong media contact person, a strong tech web person, and people well connected with local government.

Regional Transition: Jon reported on the attempts to learn names of contacts in various town transition groups.

Outreach: Peter reported on people and groups he has reached out to.

Next Meeting will be on Thursday, April 28, 7:00 p.m. At Betsy's house, 84 Eames Avenue, Amherst.