

Transition Amherst 4 28 11 Meeting Minutes

Present: Bob Abramms, Molly Falsetti-Yu, Jon Kent, Betsy Krogh, Gabor Lukacs, Mona Naimark, Peter Swift.

Regional Gathering: Jon reported on attempts to get connected with people involved in Transition initiatives in other Western Mass. Towns.

Bike Week: May 14 – 20. We will have a Transition table at the Amherst commuter breakfast on Friday the 20th. Gabor, Marianne and Betsy will work on this.

Shock Doctrine by Naomi Klein. Brief discussion about this book.

Sustainability Festival: Report on event and question: How do we keep in touch with people who have signed up at such events? Shouldn't we follow up with personal contact or an e-newsletter?

Questions for Tina: Transition Trainer Tina Clarke will be joining us for our meeting on May 12. We generated some questions we want to ask her: *What are some of the biggest pitfalls, what should we avoid? What are the other towns in Western Mass where there are transition initiatives and who are good contact people? How is the Montague Transition group doing? How do we get to the Great Unleashing? How might an energy descent plan mesh with previous plans like the Amherst Master Plan and the Climate Action Plan? How does the Transition process compare to 350.org, Moveon.org - how do the different models relate to each other? What's next in our process of initiating? What has Tina learned from her activity in the Transition movement?*

Official paperwork: Betsy confessed to dropping the ball on moving this forward. She will send our current version out to everyone in the initiating group, for comments and changes.

May 8 Retreat: Jon, Brendan and Peter have met to plan retreat and have developed a draft agenda. They will co-facilitate various segments. Agenda needs more work. It was suggested we combine getting to know each other with eating. Are we trying to do too much in the time allotted? We may put out a lot of ideas and proposals, but not make decisions at the retreat.

Outreach - Public Transportation and Biking Committee: Peter talked with the head of the committee, Karen G. Related to the Master Plan, the committee wants to do lots of things. They are pushing for the town to hire a consultant to “operationalize” the plan. Pushing for “Complete Streets” so when re-do streets include bike, pedestrian as well as cars. Minutes on town website. **Relocalization people:** We need to get in touch with these allies.

Master Plan: Peter read through the whole Master Plan and made relevant excerpts for us. People are encouraged to read his excerpts. Gabor participated in some initial meetings. Became clear to him that there was not much political and citizen will for change, and that we are very addicted to cars. Master Plan is supposed to be a guideline for when they do new projects like the Gateway Project. But it can be understood in different ways.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Gabor's house 44 Beston Street.