

Here are the minutes from Amherst Transition Town Meeting 7/21/11.

We met at Rick's place from 7-8:45 p.m.

Present: Gabor, Molly, Mona, Brendan, Rick, Betsy, Wendi, Tina (for last 15 minutes)

Facilitator: Molly      Minutes: Wendi

- a) Check-in
- b) Announcements
- c) Set Next T T Meeting
- d) Create Tonight's Agenda
- e) Start on Agenda for next Meeting

---

b) Announcements

~ 350.org: Organizing meeting in Amherst at the Church on Main Street 7/26.

~ An Action will take place from 8/23-9/3 at the White House with regard to the

extension of the oil pipeline running from Canada to the U.S. , to protest the expansion of the Tar Sands, high coal emissions, and more.

c) Next TT Meeting

Thursday, 8/4 at Mona's: 62 N.Prospect Street, 7-8:30 p.m. North Prospect St. is the one-way street behind CVS in downtown Amherst.

d) Agenda Items

1. Event Reporting:

Solarfest in VT was attended by one member who said there were many "Inspiring, creative projects and folks there" .

Transition Town Training in Northampton last weekend was attended by 3 folks who were here tonight. Here is some of what they shared:

There were many encouraging moments; Big emphasis on what folks can contribute; There is a Youth program at Simple Gifts Farm; Give gifts to your neighbors; FUN...have fun with your community; You can do anything you want to (with regards to TT) as long as it is useful and community focused; There is a lot of outreach and marketing for TT happening in England - Rob Hopkins - Combining Transition and Green Movement - what are the social and entrepreneur possibilities?; DO something together to create relationship - must get to know one another; Different town groups helping one another; Learn about one another's passions; .

Some of the tools used in the training:

Role-playing, Guided Visualizations; Group Building Activities

Rick has written a report on that training and Tina now has it for editing.

Common Good Festival on the Amherst Common was in July: "Creating well-being for the people, not corporations." The event was cheerful and had a great atmosphere of people connecting with each other-it was a good model for The Great Unleashing.

The Common Good Bank has many founding members and needs more, to create a strong, viable, local economy - to actually become a bank.

Want more info about this?...CONTACT Gabor.

2. Review Notes from Amherst TT Retreat:

Meeting types and times were reviewed: Meet N Greet, Pot-Lucks, Movie-night with short relevant film/s, Informal skill sharing. We discussed one of the above happening 4 x a year - maybe on the equinoxes.

Proposal was made: "Plan a Meet and Greet for a Fall event"

Proposal Accepted as follows: "Have a public Fall Meet and Greet event"

Date Set: Thursday Sept. 29th, 7:00 p.m. Mona's house (see above for address). Dessert to be provided by core TT folks. Intention is to spend the next couple of months making connections with folks, outreaching, and inviting them to this Meet and Greet event on Sept.29th.

This is our regular meeting night and will pretty much take the place of the regular TT meeting, though the core group can meet earlier at 6 p.m. that night for a brief meeting if folks feel it is necessary.

### 3. The Great Unleashing

We did 1 min. check-in about where folks are at with it. Here are some thoughts:

- Let's start planning and move towards it
- Let's build from what we already have on paper from other discussions.
- Time of year in 2012? March?
- Let's be humble in our approach
- Open Space Model: how and where to find venue for it?
- Each person 'Bite Off' only what they can do, accomplish.
- Let's connect and 'band' with other towns in the Great Unleashing'
- The book we're using in the book group may be helpful as we plan: 'Navigating the Coming Chaos'
- .Northfield Great Unleashing is in the Fall-some of us should go
- Don't like the phrase 'Great Unleashing' at all - feels tight, constrained, uninviting.

( Possible other words: mobilization, celebrate, opening, community well-being,)

Tina suggested having a Planning Team (for the Great Unleashing), to avoid starting over and over again with new faces at different meetings. Outreach to community leaders (police, fire dept., etc).and invite them to a Meet and Greet. Those leaders can talk to their members and get involvement in TT. Let key community leaders do the outreach.

NOFA conference 8/12 - 8/14 has a regional gathering and TT component.

4. Agenda (partial) for 8/4 Meeting:

Gabor wants to report on 'The Soul' from our book group

Regional TT should perhaps come together with the same town grouping as in the regional school board? Especially collaborate with Pelham?

5. Ended the meeting with check-out.