

Transition Amherst Initiating Group meeting 9/1/11

Present: Molly Falsetti-Yu (facilitator), Jon Kent, Betsy Krogh (notes), Gabor Lukacs, Rick Martin, Mona Naimark, Elizabeth Verrill (neighbor of Rick), Wendi Weinberg

Next meeting location: Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., at Betsy Krogh's house, 84 Eames Ave, off Cottage St., parallel to Chestnut St. Gabor will facilitate. Rick will take notes.

Agenda: Retreat follow up
Report on Tar Sands Action
Meet and Greet – practice presentations
Great Unleashing

Retreat Follow up: Various proposals of how and when to do this. Decided that Molly would re-send out notes from Retreat and we would look at this more next time.

Tar Sands: Betsy gave a report about her experience participating in this action in D.C

Meet and Greet: Thursday, September 29 7 – 9 p.m. If needed we can meet 6:30 – 7:00 before event. The idea of the event is that we will continue reaching out. Rick made a flier, and to publicize we might get our event listed in the meeting section of the paper, send the flier out to our list.

Are we aiming this at interest groups in town who we want as partners in the Great Unleashing and the transition work that follows? How do we reach different groups? What can people commit to? Molly: Public Transportation and Bicycle Committees. Betsy: Faith groups. Rick: Valley Time Trade. Gabor will contact Kevin on Public Transportation committee. Confusion about our audience for this event.

Questions for planning this event: A) who is our target audience? How/when/who reach this audience? B) What is the plan for this event/action? C) What action will each of us do? D) Schpiel/Presentation by Mona and Gabor.

A) Target audience: Whoever comes? Self-selected crowd? Partner groups? When we open our arms, who gives us a hug? Goal to deepen our building of community. Invite whoever you want. There will be other meet and greets. So it was agreed that each of us on our own will invite people on an ad hoc, individual basis. Gabor will send out information about this meet and greet to larger Transition list.

At this point those who had prepared schpiels practiced them.

Programs at events like this will usually have people listen to someone saying something to answer the questions “What's this about” “What did I come for?” This gives those who attend a container, a basis on which to open a dialogue.

We concluded the meeting with a discussion of group process and respect for person in facilitator's role.