

Transition Amherst Initiating Group - meeting notes - Jan. 5, 2012

Present: Bernard, Jon K., Molly, Wendi, Betsy, John White, Gabor, Rick, Emily, Patty

Announcements: Winter Bicycling Workshop - Sat. Jan. 7
Readiness Group at Summer Street/ Mill Hollow Apts.
Regional Transition Gathering - Monday, Jan 16, Wendell

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Brennan's Amethyst Farm, 89 Northeast Street, Amherst. Rick Martin will facilitate

Interns from Amherst College: Rick and Betsy met with Molly Meade, Karen Sanchez-Eppler and Sarah Barr to discuss spring student interns from their "Building Community" class. We want students to help decide what project they do. Semester begins 1/23, ready to begin internship 1/30. Wendi, Rick and Betsy offer to be email contacts for the students.

Website: Gabor and subcommittee made progress on website. (transitionamherst.org/blog). Gabor learned more about the software program (Wordpress). Site will include RSS feeds. Will be discussing – what kind of structure use? Important to include a "Get Involved" page; list of skills people have; offerings - what people can contribute, including paragraph explaining the continuum of involvement, different ways it could look. Place where people can leave comments. Events listing, past and upcoming. Lots of photos! Section on Who we Are. Working groups – even before Great Unleashing. Resources - which Emily is working on – categories like Land, People, Economy, Community RSS feeds, movies, books.

Meeting with Stephanie Ciccarello, Amherst Sustainability Coordinator – Just Betsy met with her since Katie hurt her back. We will get her the book. Learned about what she is up to and that she wants to work with community groups like Transition. Need follow up meeting with her. Rick and Gabor will try to arrange to meet her over coffee. We will answer "Yes" to Stephanie's invitation to participate in Sustainability Festival April 21.

Great Unleashing: No action this month. We will learn about Northfield at Reg. Gathering. Need to schedule meeting for subcommittee. Perhaps alternate Thursdays – begin Jan. 26? Doodle poll to Brennans, Katie, Mona, Rick and Betsy. Suggestion that at next meeting we allocate time to discuss Great Unleashing – up to an hour.

Conflict Resolution skill-sharing workshop: Sat. Jan 21, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Jones Library. Rick is looking for help -to distribute fliers; come at 9:00 to set up; bring refreshments – cider, baked goods, dried apples. Molly will go places to ask for bakery donations. Wendi has paper cups and plates. Betsy will talk to Carol Lewis about treasury.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Krogh