

Meeting

January 19th

Present: John, Jon, Wendy, Molly, Emily, Gabor, Rick, Betsy, Patty, Bernard and Jessa (student from Hampshire arrived at 8:15 min)

Check in

1. Announcement
2. Western Mass meeting report (Betsy) (10 min)
3. Last minute planning for compromise workshop (Rick) (10 min)
4. Great unleashing plan or planned meeting (Betsy)
5. Updates
 - Amherst college interns (Betsy) (5 min)
 - Other collegians
 - Transition website (10 min)
 - Town relationship (5 min)
 - Position treasurer (10)
 - Book group (5)
 - Invitation to John Gerber (5) (one of us talks in his class?)
 - Mill Hollow Heart and Soul group
6. New business (10 mins)
7. Closing circle

1. Announcement

- a. Planting workshop at Amethyst Farm in late May more info will be coming (Bernard)
- b. Pilot neighborhood project where Betsy and Jon live. They will give some material (Betsy)
- c. Last weekend of January there will be a nature connection weekend. Hang out outside build a snow shelter, etc (Gabor)
- d. Right after that weekend on Sunday there will be a survival meeting in Northampton (Gabor).
- e. First wednesday in February (1st), a bus load of occupy wall street people will be at Northampton, interaction and dialogue, going to the courts, etc (more under new business)
6. Tomorrow in Springfield movement to amend the statement that corporations are people. Same movement here in Amherst on Saturday.

1. Western Mass meeting report (Betsy) (10 min)

John and Jon and Betsy and Rick were at the meeting
Transition Northfield spoke about their unleashing meeting or celebrate Northfield, during the open space Betsy joined the outreach group to learn more about how they recruited more people. Jon highlights: Northfield presentation for their great unleashing... they followed the book and training, and their focus was the great unleashing from beginning to end. Left their egos at the door. Their GU was a large successful event even for the US as a

whole. In other towns people seemed less focused. John: agree with Jon. Leave egos at the door. They had an artist who made great signs for them and they had a conspicuous corner where more people would see the signs. John would love to help with this. maybe some sandwich boards at Amherst coffee, common corner, unitarian church. Steps are well laid out in the book. It was unclear with other groups what they have actually accomplished, except for Putney where they are very far ahead well after their Great Unleashing, although Putney is a very active town. Rick: Went for Northfield, but liked how Tina did open space. Rick went to Heart and Soul group. Fun ideas he took many notes: Baking contest with solar ovens, games, etc. It was very transition spirit.

Q: Planned follow up to regional organization? –Yes, partnering between groups: Brattleborough, NOFA, council? With one or two representatives from each group. Tina has all the contact information for those attending
Q: Were there representatives of the whole community? –No, lots of white older people.

Q: Learned practical skills for great unleashing? Yes

2. Last minute planning for compromise workshop (Rick) (10 min)
Agenda for the day that Rick emailed to Gabor, needs a bit of polishing. Betsy will welcome at the sign up table. Food and paper goods OK. We do not know how many people will be there. Rick: “Whatever does not work, let’s note and we won’t do that again” ☺
3. Great unleashing plan or planned meeting (Betsy)
 - a. Molly: we have not talked about this as a group.
 - b. Jon: We could make the great Unleashing our main aim so we would prioritize it.
 - c. Jan 26th 7-9 pm at Amethyst, great unleashing committee meeting
 - d. Bernard proposal: We could have a meeting for the subcommittee next week, come up with a proposal, then vote as to what the group wants to do... Next meeting we could spend 45 minutes talking about Great Unleashing.
 - e. Wendy: Maybe keep it more organic than leaving only the goal of the great unleashing

4. Updates

- a. Amherst college interns (Betsy) (5 min)
Betsy talked with Karen Sanchez,(prof.) meeting on the 23rd for the first time with students, they will come to our Feb 2d meeting, participating in our initiating group meeting and group reading discussion, publicity and social media, help plan the great unleashing. Maybe meet them for coffee to meet them before hands get to know them a little better... Wendy would be willing to meet them for coffee (Gabor). Make this an ongoing relationship with the center for community

engagement (Emily). Put something in the agenda to introduce the interns. We should email them the agenda before hand.

b. Other collegians? Two students at the western meeting, a couple of them were going to make it but they may not.

Transition website (10 min).

c. Website report: Gabor is getting close to post the website online. He got a great list of resources from Emily to add to it. A local resource list? Google document that Bernard made? Can we find it and post it there as well? Patty has to send pictures. Pictures of meetings, etc. Betsy with her solar oven? Tina asked someone at the western meeting to take pictures.

Another possible addition to the website: (Molly) Digital narrative of our own group? Pictures with narrative. We would do this cooperatively, Molly will take charge, make some interviews with group members, etc. We agree this is a great idea worth pursuing.

John: How will we get people directed to our website? Gabor: links from other organizations.

Gabor encourages everyone to go look and give feedback.

www.transitionamherst.gov/blog

d. Jessa: New student: From Hampshire: Making it the first transition college, she is trying to get an initiating group, Al Gore is coming to Campus and they are planning a great unleashing in April (27th or 29th). Maybe have Tina Clark do a workshop. Would like to collaborate, improve town relations etc. They may do a second unleashing in the fall at the beginning at a neutral town location, and perhaps we can something joint then?

e. Town relationship (5 min)

Gabor will deliver the latest Transition book to Stephanie Ciccarello.

f. Book group (5): Good idea to include students. February 3rd on a Friday and every other Friday from then on from 7:00-9:00 pm. 5-6 meetings. Read everything before Chapter 2 by Feb 3rd meeting.

g. Position treasurer (10): Betsy talked with Carol Lewis, she has an envelop with money in it (about \$200), about a third of that would be for sponsoring films that we committed previously. John volunteered to hold the money and was unanimously ratified.

h. Invitation to John Gerber (5)

Reach out to see what sort of collaboration we can set up with him. He can do evenings or Saturdays. He would like to attend the book group. Transition Northampton invited him to give a presentation after the blackout at the library, he could be part of a consciousness raising event (perhaps prior to a Great Unleashing event). He is a great ally with lots of connections. Do we want him to do a talk sponsored by us? Invite him to a town special event at Food for thought? Hitchcock center? Maybe sometime in March around the equinox? Bernard will go chat with him to see what he may be interested in doing. We should ask if maybe one of us goes talk at his class about transition movement.

i. Mill Hollow Heart and Soul group: Rick brought some flyers to show their positive spin

6. New business (10 mins)

Occupy Wall Street is coming to Northampton February 1st: At the Academy at 6:00 pm. Showing some documentaries then other things during the day. The bus is going to Boston, Providence, Northampton.

Can we be supportive of these people who are coming here? Food (?) but maybe find the person in Northampton who is organizing and ask what they need? Julia Handschuh, 413522-1319, Rose Bookbinder 413 328-2028. Updates at Occupy Northampton.org. Wendy will make the calls to find out.

7. Closing circle