

Transition Amherst – Meeting notes – February 2, 2012

Present: Patty, Bernard (time-keeper), Jon K.(co-facilitator), Molly (co-facilitator), Rick, Gabor, John W., Ophelia, Gabrielle, Emily, Betsy (notetaker)

Began meeting with Opening Round of introductions and brief check ins. Announcements followed. Consented to minutes from last meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 16, 6:30 p.m. Potluck & Book discussion (Transition Handbook by Rob Hopkins, through chapter 1), 7:15 – 9:00 business meeting. At 89 Northeast Street, home of Bernard and Patty, aka Amethyst Farm. Emily will facilitate meeting with assistance from Molly.

Updates/Debriefs:

Compromise Workshop – Rick asked to hear what attendees appreciated most and least. Much positive feedback and some suggestions for improving the workshop.

Amherst College Interns – Gabrielle and Ophelia shared some of their goals in learning more about Community Building via their internship with us. The group welcomed them and hoped they will be active participants, help us connect with a younger demographic, share their observations and learning with us. Bernard will add their email addresses to I.G. Google list.

Occupy Wall Street events in Northampton – Jon and Gabor reported on events (movies and workshop) they attended. Message is we are so programmed by our education system and society that we don't even know we are being dominated. The Occupy movement teaches how to be with each other in a sharing, listening, collaborative way, not a dominating way and facilitation & meeting skills. How to organize community and realize how powerful we are. Emphasis more on process than action.

Website: Gabor reported on progress of website development. He asks people to go to transitionamherst.org or [.com](http://transitionamherst.com) and give him feedback. He needs photos of transition events.

Treasury Report – John W. picked up money from Carol Lewis. Some needs to be dispersed to groups who co-sponsored films. **We decided to authorize treasurer to investigate and then open a savings account** (at Northampton Cooperative?). **We decided that John will serve a year term as Treasurer.** John will look into having a co-signer. Discussed money received from Rick's Workshop and due Gabor for second Transition Handbook going to Stephanie Ciccarello. We could also pay for things via Valley Time Trade.

Book Group - Since very few of us were planning to attend the scheduled Friday night meeting **we decided to include book discussion in our regular meetings.** See above.

Liaisons – John Gerber is interested in one-off engagements but not regular meetings. Bernard, now on town Agricultural Commission, met with Town Manager John Musante and summer Farmer's Market people re: expanding market to increase competition and access for farmers, and via lower prices, make this local food market more accessible to customers. Molly will post info about John Gerber's Sustainable Living course at Umass. Jon will be liaison with local Occupy group (Weds. 5-7 p.m. at Bangs Ctr.) - cross advertise on website?

Decision Log: Jon offered a proposal to keep list of group's decisions dates in a place separate from the minutes. Could also list sunset date – when decision expires. All would have access – it would be on website or a google doc.- for transparency and openness. Such logs help in organizations with flowing membership. Someone would need to keep up to date. **We decided to keep a separate decision log on website open to the public, where**

decisions the group makes would be recorded at each meeting by Jon or Patty.

Great Unleashing: Update – Bernard explained draft agenda developed by subcommittee. Two goals of event are to introduce Transition and generate excitement & motivation to take action. Goal of second half of the event would be to launch working groups. Goal to put this “initiating group” out of business to be replaced by coordinating committee made up of representatives of working groups. Want it to be a celebration, not scare people. Include music/videos - perhaps films of elders or by historic society. Hold at a school?

When to hold it? Spring? Summer? Fall? Saturday or Sunday? What to call it? Gabor suggests “Great Kickoff”. Need to add “who’s in the room” component, way for existing groups to share what they are doing. Need more information from Northfield about their agenda. Shall we meet with Tina as we plan our Great Unleashing? Starting later (9:30?) might make more accessible to college students and other late risers.

Ask people to look at agenda and report sent out from subcommittee and give feedback, share other ideas that come up. Will want entire group to agree on agenda, plan when to hold event and do outreach work. Should plenary group (whole initiating group) have the Great unleashing as its aim? Different subcommittees work on different parts of doing this aim? Discussion will continue next time.

New Business:

UMass Sustainability Initiative – **Group decided that Patty will contact group evaluating proposals for sustainability initiatives at UMass** and talk to them about Transition Amherst
Valley Time Trade – tabled until next meeting.

Closing Round of appreciations and evaluations.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Krogh