

Transition Amherst – Meeting minutes 3/29/12

Present: Gabor, Bernard, Patty, Molly, Jon, John, Wendi (facilitator), Emily, Betsy

Notetaker, Betsy; Timekeeper, Gabor; Facilitator next meeting, Thurs. April 12: Jon

The meeting followed a potluck and discussion of Rob Hopkins' Transition Companion, pp 72-104. This will continue at our next meeting, with potluck at 6:15 and discussion of pp104-142.

Wendi led the group in assembling the agenda for the meeting, followed by check-ins.

Announcements:

Part one of bamboo bike trailer workshop attended by 12 people. Part two will take place on April 21 and May 12 (participants will come to the one they can attend).

Wendi will be having a Greenhouse raising on April 15.

Our representative Jon will attend the next Regional Transition conference call on Wednesday April 25. If others would like to participate, talk to him at jonk@igc.org.

Gabor has been talking with friends who lived through the Great Depression.

Common Good Finance is looking for new Board members. For more information, contact John at johnr.white3@gmail.com.

Website: Gabor has continued to work on the Website. He needs feedback. It now lists skill sharings and movies we are doing. There is a link to the website from our Facebook page and from Transition US. The kind of help Gabor needs: Photos of events, help with "Hunglish", suggestions how to make the text smoother and the picture part better, ideas, additions, clarifications. Gabor would like help with flow and organization of the website.

Treasurer's report: John reported that we have \$412.03 in the account minus \$70 that will go to WFCR and \$5 to the Jones Library. Still needs to disperse funds to fellow sponsor of last year's film series. Betsy will get that info to John.

Awareness Raising Events:

Films – coordinators John and Patty – Venue -Jones Library, Tuesday evenings.

April 17 (?) Queen of the Sun, perhaps with beekeeper to talk

May 8 or 15 – Bike movie like "Return of the Scorcher" maybe collaborate with Bike week

June - Transition 2.0

July – The Farmer and the Horse (?)

August – Dirt (?)

Skillshares – coordinator Gabor - 4th Saturdays

April – Bicycle Spring tune up

In warm weather maybe harvesting/processing as crops come in; Elderflower syrup etc.

Other ideas from the group: foraging, mushroom identification, story telling/ story sharing

Walks: Coordinator Bernard and needs someone else to help.

Ideas – Elisa Campbell volunteered to lead one. John White will lead one to Solar Site.

Arts/Creative/Family – Molly and Emily

Emily can lead skill share about storytelling. Molly has skills teaching/doing digital stories.

Family events in the summer: papermaking, creating bags. Art space at Bramble Hill Farm or the Hitchcock Center.

Other ideas: clothing, plant, seed swaps.

Strategy and Process:

Questions raised: Who is our audience? What is our strategy? At the next meeting we will give a chunk of time to these questions including how to reach out to a more diverse group (idea: think creatively about where to put fliers). Need to discuss our strategy as we undertake these outreach events. Need to have process which allows people to give reactions and express opinions so we can achieve the widest possible buy in.

It would be good to distill what we learned from Tina to form an outreach strategy, decide who/where to reach out to.

There needs to be room for everyone to offer their gifts. We need space to find out what each person can do. We need a process which makes participation accessible to everyone. In order for everyone to feel happy, appreciated and content, we need a process that allows us each to offer our diverse gifts.

Sustainability Festival April 21 10-4

Rotating staffing at table and to float doing outreach to other groups. (Plan what we can ask or offer to other groups.)

Molly, Emily, John and Wendi can participate – will discuss via email and at next meeting.

Great Unleashing name

Ideas: Sowing the Seed

The Launch

Celebrate Amherst: Past, Present future. (Or Celebrate our Amherst)

Went around with comments: some liked, some did not, there were ideas for changes. We will continue this discussion next meeting and meanwhile create an email thread to discuss the name. Next meeting we will also discuss the date for the G.U.