

Transition Amherst – 5/10/12 - Meeting minutes

Present: Molly, Jon K., Betsy, Emily, Gabor, Steve, Rick, John W.

After check-in Rick shared a song, Joy to the World in Transition.

Announcements:

Some good films: Ciclovida:Lifecycle about Brazilian seed savers on bicycles

After the Glut, about Cuba.

Steve told us about Accessible Garden Beds in Wilbraham

John White told about upcoming Producer Co-op meetings

Gabor talked about Chris Martenson talk at Putney Sunday, May 13

Betsy brought up Bill McKibben talk at Amherst College September 7

Gabor shared information about how we can post to the website which will be sent to the initiating group in a separate email.

No reskilling yet this month. Gabor has been talking to CET people who want to do an Eco-House Party. Perhaps the 4th Saturday of May. Gabor will send out a notice when he knows.

From an interview with Richard Burbridge: Amherst not listed as a “bikeable community”.

Things are brewing to improve aspects like lengths of bike lanes, awareness and signage.

Next meeting in 2 weeks, May 24, back at Amethyst Farm, 89 Northeast Street. Potluck at 6:15, Meeting begins 7:00 p.m. Emily and Molly will co-facilitate.

Mission: Step back and look at our activities and feelings. Where are we with the group? Where is the group and our activities vis a vis our mission formulations? Are they in line with the mission? We read two mission statements(See Gabor agenda email 5/8). Perhaps one is mission and one is aim? Or vision? Different views of the two statements. Some like specifics in second, some like simpler shorter first. It was decided that perhaps the shorter current one is a vision statement, the more specific older one is a mission statement and the aim might be the statement coming out of the GU committee. One mission and many purposes. When time ran out we discussed whether to continue with a discussion of how what we are doing lines up with these mission/vision statements. Rick wanted to talk about the Great Unleashing. We decided to divide remaining time, half and half with G.U. first.

Great Unleashing: Rick shared a draft he had written up for a proposed G.U. agenda based on last subcommittee meeting 5/3. There were different understandings about what Open Space was, how it was set up etc. Molly raised questions about who is our audience? What are the expectations? Will we be only preaching to the converted? How will we appeal to families and a more diverse audience? She expressed excitement and feelings of being overwhelmed. Gabor responded to Molly's concern and overwhelmed feeling. He suggested that we might be worried if we do not succeed. He suggested that if people's lives get harder before then, that might motivate them to come to G.U. John W. talked about timeline for Producer co-op group. There is a USDA grant proposal being submitted which if successful might lead to funding around the middle of October. Perhaps our G.U. event could coincide. We discussed conflicts on Sept 22, Sept 29. Suggested that in October, the subtle psychology with the colder weather coming is that people will be thinking about energy and might be more attentive.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Krogh