

Chickens, and gardens, and bees, oh my!

Transition Amherst Meeting at John White's house – 06/07/2012 – Notes

Present

Wendi and Rick (co-facilitators), Betsy, Emily, Gabor, John W., Molly, Steve

I. Song

Meeting began with the song, "Why Can't We Be Friends" led by Rick.

II. Check-in

Each person shared one lovely and one challenging thing from his/her day.

III. Next meeting

Thursday, June 21st, at 7 pm (no potluck) at the Brennans. John W. will facilitate.

IV. Announcements and Reports

A. Transition 2.0 will be shown on Wednesday, June 13th at 7:30 pm at Roger Conant's house in Pelham. (Address: 153 North Valley Road.)

B. Betsy reported on the "Growing Food in Amherst meeting" that took place on Wednesday, June 6th, 2012. (Notes from that meeting are attached.)

C. Molly and John talked a bit about the Slow Living Summit they attended in Brattleboro, VT.

D. Gabor talked about Richard Burbridge's visit to Amherst. No one showed up except the host, Gabor. Gabor handed out questionnaires that we can complete and return to Richard. **Note: Richard's letter of introduction is on our website's home page.

E. John reported on the May 29th, 2012 "All Things Local" meeting. There is lots of interest in this project. There was more directed dialogue at this meeting. Has the Chamber of Commerce been involved?

V. Break

The group took a 15' minute break at 8 pm. John gave the group a tour of his and his neighbors' bees, gardens, and chickens.

VI. Agenda

A. Website

Gabor highly encouraged the group to start blogging in order to make the Transition Amherst website more dynamic.

B. Public Radio

John talked about taking out ads on New England Public Radio (am-WNNZ and fm-WFCR) to promote the GU. The group talked about the need to dedicate more time and energy to discussing what kinds of publicity is

needed / financially viable.

C. The "Great Celebration" (GU)

Reminder from the May 24th, 2012 meeting that the group's priorities and goals for the GU are:

a celebration, make it enjoyable, fun, energetic
education/awareness raising - offer information and answer questions about Transition movement
building community
form working groups
create the feeling of belonging to this community, this place
invite people into cooperative community leadership (open-space work?)
empower others to bring their ideas to fruition -work w/ others

The event should be less a 'conference' and more of a celebration, high energy event.

Emily's condensed version of the event is attached as a pdf file. Everyone thanked Emily for her work on the new agenda.

Discussion about the GU: What is our intention/purpose? Is everyone in the group in agreement about the day? Perhaps the group should organize a speaker/panel the night before GU. The agenda is too busy. Are both World Cafe and Marketplace needed? (How are they different?) Can more flexibility be built in? How to make the event more 'organic'? Perhaps we can shorten World Cafe and lengthen Marketplace time. How can we meet different attendee's needs? We can balance both fun at the event with the serious nature of the material being explored at the GU. A lot depends on how we frame the event. Positive visioning is a tool that is commonly used in Transition Towns. We really need to make a concerted effort with outreach. We need a venue. **Group voted on the name "All Things Community: Celebrating Amherst in Transition" = five thumbs up, 2 down, and 1 sideways.** Name is too clunky, the word 'transition' is ambiguous.

The group informally agreed to continue discussion of GU at future meetings. Discussion items to be included are: the name, the venue, outreach and publicity, documentation of our group and lead-up to the GU, child care/child's corner.

VII. Check out

Most of the group agreed that the GU cauldron was being stirred with good, positive energy. There is energy and momentum...

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Falsetti-Yu