

NOTES from the meeting of

The Transition Amherst Initiating Committee

Thursday, August 2, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

at the home of Gabor Lukacs

APOLOGY: I am sad and sorry to say that on Tuesday, August 7, I spilled a cup of coffee on my computer. It was "closed," but the liquid got in and killed the motherboard of the elderly machine---though not the hard drive. Only today, Saturday, August 11, was I able to complete the process of buying a new computer and having my data transferred to the new hard-drive. THUS I missed the whole conversation about the extra meeting, and was unable to attend or to assist with documentation. Please forgive.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 16, 7-9 p.m. at the home of John White, 265 Stanley St., Amherst

Present 8/2: Jon Kent, Betsy Krogh, Molly Falsetti-Yu, Gabor Lukacs, Rick Martin, Steve Fratoni, John White, and Doris Goldman. Gabor and Molly facilitated; Rick took notes (Molly also "stacked")

1. We checked in at 7 p.m., and planned the next meeting for 8/16, with Rick facilitating and Steve (tentatively) offering to assist him.

2. Announcements included the "mushroom" walk-about Aug. 5 and the forest walk Aug. 26 with Kate Marquis.
 - Gabor reported that only three people showed up for his last workshop on diagnosing and healing yourself, reminding us of "what it takes" to attract a lot of people---and the value of last-minute confirmation-calls.
 - Northeast Organic Farmers' Association (NOFA) is Aug. 10-12 at U.Mass. (any Transition-track?)
 - Rick passed around a report on his five week (June-July) peacebuilding trip to Israel/Palestine, including an interview with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

3. We approved our Agenda and began with a brief report from John on the progress of All Things Local, the indoor farmers' cooperative market project. (benefits of membership?)

4. We developed consensus around the idea of scheduling an extra meeting of the Steering Committee as the date of the “unleashing” approaches, but did not pick the date. Betsy agreed to poll members of the group by internet.

5. All Things Community---Celebrating Amherst In Transition (the “great unleash-ing”). Gabor summed up information (distributed from Wendi via internet) that a four-person committee of ours succeeded in renting the Middle School auditorium and adjacent spaces for our “great unleashing” to be held Saturday afternoon, October 13.

- Approximately \$1,000 was spent by Wendi and Gabor to make required deposits to secure the space (\$80/hr. plus other fees). Members of the Steering Committee began the process of chipping-in to reimburse these two, and we will be asking those in attendance for a suggested donation.
- We agreed on the need for us to visit these spaces well in advance of the event, to get a clear idea of how to use them best.
- The “unleashing” will not occur during any mealtime, but the provision of snacks and drinks in the hall outside the auditorium was discussed, including the solicitation of local bakeries.
- In the absence of copies of the new half-day schedule for the gathering itself, we determined to start drawing up lists of “who will do what?” Rick promised to place that schedule in front of us at the next meeting Aug. 16.
- We concluded with a go-around regarding our hopes and fears for All Things Community—Celebrating Amherst In Transition.

6. We adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Martin