

Hi all, Below are the notes I took off the big white sheet on Molly's son's easel (plus stuff I remember). -
Betsy

Incomplete Notes from Transition Amherst EXTRA MEETING 9/20/12, 5PM – 6:45 PM

Present: Rick, Jon, Betsy, Molly, John, Tina, Wendi

Schedule as edited by Betsy and posted on Website – from earlier version by Emily, Rick etc:

12:30 Registration

1:00 Opening

1:10 Amherst Past and Present

1:30 “Re-imagining Our Future—Transitioning to Community Resilience”

1:50 Reflection/discussion

2:00 Participatory Thinking: “The World Café.”

3:00 Break & Musical interlude

3:10 Introduction to “The Open-Space Marketplace” to build working groups

3:40 Open-Space Session 1

4:20 Break

4:30 Open-Space Session 2

5:10 Reports, Next Steps and Closing

5:30 Adjourn

Discussion of Schedule & details for Oct 12 All Things Community event:

Music:

-Rick pursuing High School Jazz Band – to play on stage while people arrive 12:30 – 12:55 “cool jazz”

-Opening song 12:55-1:05 John W investigating Peter Blood/Annie Patterson or Emma and Eli Ayres

-3 p.m. - Break and musical interlude – Rick (& friends??) will lead sing along

-4:20 p.m. break – (nothing? Poem? Music?)

-5:30 p.m. should we have music?

Betsy might be able to find people to do contra dance type music if we want it or need it for back up.

1:05 - Greeting – Bernard Brennan (?) (emcee?)

1:10 – Amherst Past and Present

Amherst Past: Molly/Emily working on or will find something – oral histories? Short video/film from historical society -Louis Greenebaum? New Ideas: photos of Amherst History mural in cemetery with text from existing write-up? Harvesting History book?

Amherst Present: Celebrate resilience – power point? – congratulate sponsors & groups present. Slides of current government initiatives? Appreciations? Who is present (without long explanations)? Idea of giving awards (certificates?) to groups already doing significant transition/sustainability work?

1:30 - Re-imagining Our Future – Tina Clarke

1:50 – 3:00: Much of the 9/20 meeting was devoted to a multi-faceted discussion of the next time slot which we had previously labeled "discussion" and "World Cafe". We could have people sit around paper-covered tables with markers having conversations about questions we give, rotating to different tables.

But how much emphasis on problems/challenges: vs positive vision/directions? Some said ratio of 10% :90%

Don't want people to get stuck in a complaining/negative place, but we want to have our feet on the ground not coming across as excessive and ungrounded positivity. Some mention of problems and challenges (in Tina's talk – a few slides...) We want to give people a sense of possibility, engage their creativity.

How we express/word questions can lead people, can reinforce positive directions. We could have an option for those who want to name and list the problems and challenges to do so, and for others an opportunity to envision a positive future. We want to focus in a positive direction but give space for fears. Not a denial of fears, etc. but encouragement to think creatively, give a chance for positive vision.

OR we could structure differently with different "centers" for different activities: people who want to discuss at tables can discuss. People who want to make up a skit or do some art (murals?) can do that and then share with everybody. Creative expression can make it fun!

OR we could do a brief visualization/imagination type exercise (Tina and Wendi have both led these) such as "Imagine 2032 or beyond" - like in Training for Transition that many of us have attended.

OR we could have questions around 1) constraints 2) values 3) opportunities and 4) priorities.

Goal of day's event, 3 things we want to do:

Engage Head (20 year vision for Amherst)

Hands (practical projects - results – working groups.)

Heart (positive relationship building, community building)

We have the Venue from 11:30 – 6:30 (custodian will be there from 11 to 7)

Event will run from 12:30 -5:30.

Next Meeting will take place this Thursday, 9/27 at Patty and Bernard's NEW house, 89 Northeast Street.
A Main Focus of next meeting will be OUTREACH. Who will be the facilitator/s?