

# All Things Local Draft Minutes

Amethyst Farm

August 9, 2012

**Attending:** John White, Bernard Brennan (facilitating), Robin Luberoff, Michelle Parish, John Thibbitts, Emily Stephens, Tina Clarke and John Gerber (recording)

1. John Thibbitts gave a report summarizing his review of possible sites for the market.
  - a. There were several not possible at this time (the Silverscape building, the property next to ABC and the Fire Station, Boltwood Place, Michelson property (next to Bank of America), Leader building (behind Mobil station),
  - b. The Knights of Columbus building next to the new Boltwood buliding in the parking lot is a possibility.
  - c. Possibility where the Clawfoot Tub is currently (it is only 1500 sq. ft.)
  - d. John still needs to meet with Watrobas and Maplewood Organic.
  - e. John reported that Cinda Jones would like us to be in North Amherst. The Cow Palace would rent for \$1350/month and the mill building (14,000 sq.ft.) is also a possibility (especially if we could share space with Atkins).
  - f. There is also a possibility (confidentially) of space near Wheatberry Bakery and around the railroad yard.
  
2. Bernard asked if we should work toward a location consistent with our mission or be more opportunistic and try to find something that works sooner. The conversation moved toward what will the future be like and where are the opportunities in a post-carbon world. The relative benefits of being downtown or not was discussed.

There seemed to be consensus that a quick start-up location would help us generate excitement and community support. The two locations that seemed most likely are Watrobas and Maplewood Farm. A subset of the entire group needs to meet with these two owners.

## Action Item

- Tina will set up the meeting with Watrobas.
- Bernard will set up the meeting with Maplewood.

3. The pros and cons of various partnerships were discussed.
  
4. Four mission statements were distributed prior to the meeting.

**Mission Statement:** *To enhance local livelihoods by creating a marketplace for locally produced goods that is managed cooperatively by producers and consumers.*

**Mission Statement:** *To enhance local livelihoods by creating a marketplace for locally produced goods that is owned and managed cooperatively by producers and consumers.*

**Mission Statement:** *To increase opportunities for producers of consumables made or raised locally, improve food security, and enhance local employment and the quality of life in our geographic area through a producer and consumer owned and operated market.*

**Mission Statement:** *All Things Local initiative serves the local community and region through increasing opportunity for producers of food and crafts to market their goods, through improving food security, and by advancing community and economic development goals through enhancing local employment and the general quality of life.*

Discussion followed.....

**Michelle submitted an alternative which reads** *"All Things Local seeks to strengthen the local economy and expand opportunities to sell and buy locally grown food and hand-crafted goods by establishing a producer and consumer cooperative and retail marketplace."*

More discussion followed....

John White suggested an alternative which he will send to us all. An email discussion will follow trying to find agreement.

**Action Item**

John White will send a revised version for discussion and input prior to our next meeting.

5. Tina suggested that Transition Amherst group and All Things Local group should work together to do outreach for the October 13 Great Unleashing. John Gerber asked that we discuss the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to position ATL as a project of TA from a marketing perspective. Michelle reminded the group that we had agreed to hold off on outreach for ATL until we had a clear mission statement and some agreement on bylaws etc. Tina remembered otherwise. The meeting ended without general consensus on the proposal to work together to do outreach for the Great Unleashing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm with foggy minds and tired bodies.

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**Action Item**

**In preparation for the next meeting, please:**

1. Review the questions (below) and make notes about additional questions for Apple, who may join us at the next meeting.
  2. Review the following documents from Local Roots:
    - a. Producer Application Form
    - b. Producer Guidelines and Policies
  3. Think about the mission statement and share your thoughts by email.
  4. Think about what we might do about the Great Unleashing on October 13.
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From the August 1 minutes:

Questions for Apple:

- What is the value of a sliding scale for membership compared to the same fee for everyone?
- Is there a reason to have item 6 in the membership agreement?
- Can/should the secretary and treasurer serve in these positions but not be a member of the board? Member of the coop?
- Should/can we require a super majority for some kinds of votes?
- Should/can we specify board members be balanced among producers and consumers?
- Is there something about a cooperative that requires us to return some portion of the net margin back to members (legally)?
- How do you deal with "surplus"?
- Is it important (for public perception reasons for example) to try to reward participation in the coop?
- Should we require a quorum requirement for a membership meeting?
- Do you have to allow proxies?
- Is there a requirement in the cooperative model that members make an investment?
- Are there particular requirement of the state of Massachusetts relating to cooperatives that we should be aware of?

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 23  
at 7:00pm at Amethyst Farm.**