

Minutes for TCLocal Meeting: 13 May 2006

Roll Call

Jon Bosak, Josh Dolan, Marty Hiller, Jen Maffet, Ed Mikula, Denise Mooney, Terry Moore, Dave Panofsky, Kate Quinn-Jacobs, Angelika Rumberger, Simon St. Laurent, Bethany Schroeder

Report of Recent Presentations

29 April: “Local Solutions to the Energy Dilemma” (Manhattan)—review of speakers and organization. We may have made some good contacts, and we verified our suspicion that few communities are doing what we are.

11 May: Sustainable Tompkins Coordinating Council (Ithaca)—was well attended and we had good questions and comments. Marty reported that someone she knows felt overwhelmed.

Other potential venues for presentations discussed and to be explored:
Unitarian Universalist—especially if we could speak to the spiritual aspects of our work. **(Volunteer with Bethany if you have a connection.)**

Catholic Worker—Kate will remind them in June during the planning sessions about having a presentation. **(AI)**

Kate suggested a teen presentation. She shared that John Miglietta is doing a documentary on peak oil after having read the Hirsch report, and he found teens open to peak oil discussions. **(AI?)**

4H—(Kate) **(AI)**

Marty has the participant list from Small Farms and CU Extension participant email addresses—Jon offered to send TCLocal one-time spam to Marty’s and others’ contacts. **(AI)**

Earth Day Postmortem

Simon hasn’t heard back from anyone he spoke to, but he did hand out a number of flyers and spoke to a lot of attendees.

Water Tour

Denise and Kate attended, where they observed the silt pond above the reservoir on Six-mile creek, the water treatment plant on Giles, and waste treatment near Farmers’ Market. The plant produces methane in a digester, which gives them 20% of their electrical supply. The workers burn the extra methane rather than save it because they make money at the plant and are unconcerned about the increased price of fuel, so therefore don’t conserve. Officials are considering the possibility of getting water from Bolton Point rather than Six-mile Creek, because updating the water treatment plant will cost more than pumping water from Bolton. State regulations are stringent and complicated, and even though the

work is complex, there's lots of manual work at the plant. The environmental community is and will be influential in the decision-making process; Six-mile Creek is protected as a result of the water treatment plant, which might not be the case were the City to move the plant (at which point the land might be broken up and sold to individuals). Denise will look into the political aspects of the situation; Josh will compile list of allies. **(AI)**

Upcoming TCLocal Events

16 May: Peak Oil discussion group (Autumn Leaves, Ithaca, 7 p.m.) — *Bethany et al.*

4 June: Social Justice Committee of Ithaca Monthly Meeting of Friends (Hector Meetinghouse on Perry City Road, 11:45 a.m.) — *Simon et al.*
Jon will present peak oil and Simon will do the rest.

22 June: Brief TCLocal presentation with screening of "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" (Ithaca College, Center for Natural Sciences, Building #23, Room 112, 6:30 p.m.) — *Bethany and Jon*

TCLocal representation at the biodiesel fundraiser (The Haunt, Ithaca, 12:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday 14 May)—no one is available to represent TCLocal.

Go-live TCLocal

TCLocal site: Up in June; the site is ready to go live. Jon worried about the order of topics. Josh suggested circular order, but software is hierarchal. We'll need to do teaching sessions. Can we ask Dave to participate? We'll want to arrive at a process for developing notes on questions for FAQ. **(AI—Jon: Ask Dave about training sessions.)**

The Project Miscellany

Jon distributed the topic list and assignments at the recent Sustainable Tompkins meeting. The list is available in email, if anyone needs a fresh version.

We discussed formatting ideas for the white papers, including restricting ourselves to a 10th grade reading level. Jen supports keeping the approach simple. Simon recommends a journalistic approach. Jon thinks we'll know it when we see it. Simon strongly urges us to avoid corporate and bureaucratic language.

The guidelines under development call for further discussion of style sheets, electronic or otherwise. A discussion of style guides led us to agree to look at guides in an effort to find one we can agree to use. **(AI—all.)**

Conference Update

Bethany and Jon shared concerns about organizing a fall peak oil conference. The

group discussed the pros, cons, and likelihood of siphoning off energy from the research and writing project for the sake of the conference. The consensus was to postpone until next spring or fall. We could pitch it as a gathering of central New York, as in a convergence or congress—birds of a feather. In the meantime we might be able to promote a local Peak Oil October Fest with a poster session. We'll review the idea in July, but find potential rooms beforehand.

Action Item Review

Done. Outstanding items cleared or noted.

Chair Election

Jon remains chair.

Summer schedule

6-8 p.m.

June 3

July 1

no August meeting

Sept. 9

During summer we'll brown bag dinner rather than eat out afterwards.