

TCLocal Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2007

Roll call

Jon Bosak, Josh Dolan, Terry Moore, Chris Peters, Kate Quinn-Jacobs, Bethany Schroeder, Tom Shelley, Angelika St. Laurent, Simon St. Laurent

Reports

First meeting of the Cayuga Sustainability Council, 25 October (*Bethany, Kate, Jon*): About 30-40 people attended. Introductions were made but no plans for the future were set. The next meeting will be in January.

Presentation to Back to Democracy, 26 October, Trumansburg (*Jon and Bethany*): Thirty or more people attended the presentation, which used a problem/solution format. Participants asked lots of good questions, and we received some post-presentation mail.

“An Integrated Approach to City Water Treatment,” 1 November, South Hill School (*Jon and John*): No further presentations about the findings related to water-treatment options in Ithaca are planned. Thanks to John for setting this up.

Sustainable Tompkins Christmas party 7 December (*Kate*): Kate, with Denise's help, represented TCLocal. The party was an improvement over last year. Kate was able to reproduce the logo that members discussed in email.

Article “Local Hydropower a Proven Solution” in *Tompkins Weekly* (December 3-9, 2007).

Angelika presented in Texas in October at a Presbyterian function, “Faith, Fuel, and Food.” She hopes to do more outreach with local churches. She also participated in a peak oil panel discussion in Oneonta, at which she spoke to issues of food security.

Upcoming events

Presentation “Coping with Energy Descent through Relocalization,” GreenStar, Wednesday 9 January 2008, 7 p.m.

Joint TCLocal/Connected Ithaca presentation (TBD), South Side Elementary School. It was decided that we need to talk to Connected Ithaca before committing to this. Jon was tasked with inviting CI to give us a presentation at our meeting 12 January.

tclocal.org public input blog

Organization, layout, access, maintenance (*Simon*): The group entertained questions about registration, making entries, preventing spam. Members pointed out that technical solutions have political impact. Most agree that the blog must be moderated; Simon will work on keeping the site clean so that it's easy to moderate, complete with an identified moderator. One article a month would give the process regularity and make it easy to assign the moderator. Simon suggests rotating the moderator with each new article.

Members also discussed whether we should link to other organizations, and whether links to the repository could be included. Simon will add different options and ask for feedback.

Graphics (*Jon*): We didn't get to this.

Publication process: We agreed that we would not attempt to edit articles as a group activity but rather focus on policy issues. The following emerged as an initial process:

- Author mails article to group a week before the meeting
- Members provide input to author privately
- Revisions (if any) go back out to the group prior to the meeting
- Discussion during the meeting focuses on the title of the piece and any policy issues; since the idea is to get feedback from the public, we will go ahead with any article that doesn't violate basic principles of what we're trying to do

Note that in this case we've already had a manuscript of the initial article for several months.

Rollout of the new site: Agreed to start in January. We need an archives section, and we need to attach the sidebar we arrived at earlier. The latest article should always live at the blog URL but should also be assigned a persistent URL at which it can be found later.

Order of publication

We agreed to the following publication schedule for the first half of 2008:

January: "Fruits in a Post-Peakoil Tompkins County" (Angelika)

February: Roads etc. (Simon)

March: The TCLocal recommendation for the City of Ithaca Water Treatment Plant decision (already available from the old site)

April: Urban land use design principles (Josh)

May: Household preparation (Kate)

June: Health resource survey (Bethany)

And then the following will be published in the second half, order TBD:

Nut trees (Angelika)

Tompkins County foodsheds (Christian)

Waste and recycling (Tom)

Articles should be about 600-1000 words in length and should always include recommendations for action at both the individual and local government levels.

Tony Nekut on biomass (Kate)

Tony is working on a forestry co-op, looking specifically at shortfalls and resources in the community. Kate will ask him to speak at a TCLocal meeting.

Discussion series at the Library (Kate)

Status: We said something about arranging sponsorship with Sustainable Tompkins. Available dates : Feb 6, Feb 13, Feb 20, 7-9 p.m. Kate, Jon, and Bethany will organize the series and select DVDs from the Triple Global Crisis conference they attended in the fall. (Dates have now been pushed to March.)

Research progress reports (*all*): out of time!

Upcoming chair renewal (*Jon*): The six-month review came due in November. As stated in the October agenda, Jon is definitely ready for someone to take over for the next six months... and we have a volunteer. Thank you, Simon. Bethany will continue to serve as secretary.

Meeting schedule

Next meeting is 4-6 p.m. 12 January at Tom Shelley's house, 118 E. Court Street in Ithaca.

Then: Feb 2, March 1, 4-6 p.m.