

TCLocal Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2009

Present: Jon Bosak, Tatiana Dayanoff (guest), John Graves, Terry Moore, Angelika St. Laurent, Simon St. Laurent, Bethany Schroeder, Tom Shelley

1) Website

- Foodsheds article has been posted and announced.
- More comments appeared on our site: comments from one non-member and one contributor. Jon will add Karl North's comments on the piece, too, which Karl submitted earlier during a preview of the article.
- Server administrator (Simon) is still underwater, taking on water: he hopes nonetheless to pull stats out of the server before much longer.
- Repository development progress - Simon and Jon: Jon will work on it when his workload allows him to do so.
- Need to rearrange upcoming articles (suggested schedule):

April: Tompkins County foodshed (Chris Peters)
May: Could New York State feed itself? (Jon Bosak)
June: Household preparation, Part 2 (Katie Quinn-Jacobs)
July: Health care resources, Part 2 (Bethany Schroeder)
August: Food production systems (Karl North)
Sept: Biomass options (Krys Cail)
October: Local wood heat (Tony Nekut)
Nov: Local biofuel production (Tycho Dan)

A change to the above could include NWAEG articles.

2) Printing the first collection of TCLocal articles

- Funding deadline: IC may not be able to fund printing next year. John Graves's s-i-l may be able to design the pages for us. John will send s-i-l's email address to Jon, who will work on getting the articles into shape for publishing.

3) Outreach / Interactions with other organizations (when applicable, TCLocal members are noted in parentheses)

- TCLocal presentation to ITCTC, March 10 (Jon): Only had 20 minutes and gave supporting information to participants in paper format. Well attended and well received. **AI: Tom and Tania would like handout in electronic format.**
- Farms, Food & Energy Conference, March 25 (Jon): Attended this conference in Syracuse; shared handouts with TCLocal members. **AI: Jon will send URL for Chris Peters's presentation to members.**
- Gas Drilling: Public Health Effects, March 26 (Jon, Bethany, Tom, and Tatiana): It has now been announced that involved businesses may have been put off of drilling in Tioga County, due to fiscal constraints. Nonetheless, residents event organizers have encouraged residents to remain vigilant. A second lecture has been scheduled for May 6.
- Transition Towns meeting, March 29 (Jon, Tom, Tatiana, Karl): Spokesperson for Transition Towns addressed an invited group of sustainability locals, but participants

pointed out that the area has lots of local groups and the effort would have to be pushed by government leaders in order to work. Spokesperson seemed unaware of the extent of work that has already been done here in the areas of peak oil and climate change mitigation through education and (some) planning.

- RPM Sustainability Cafe, April 2 (Jon): RPM (Root Production Method) is a company in Dryden with a patented process to accelerate tree growth. Presenter talked about the problems associated with biogas production; RPM process works with hard woods and native plants, thereby bypassing the typical issues in biogas development. Extensive discussion of various local, national, and international efforts to effectively produce and use biogas was included.
- Sustainable Tompkins (Tom): Sponsoring Bioneers conference, which will focus on energy efforts and green jobs. ST plans to expand mini-grant program, which has been successful in the last year. Renting an office in town along with Hub and small sustainability organizations to achieve economies of scale and develop more of a presence in the community.
- Dan Bednarz (Bethany): Interviewed this public health expert who publishes regularly on the web about health care issues in a peak oil world. Bethany will include his insight and resources he shared with her in her upcoming TCLocal article.

4) Local municipal issues

- TCAT: Changed meeting time to allow more people to drop in. Also received recovery monies for 6 new busses.
- Planning: Nothing new.
- Natural gas exploration issues: TC Council of Governments met to discuss what municipalities can do to effect regulation.
- TCCOG: Received over 80K to study water and sewer resources related to growth.
- Coalition of local groups and organizations received 630K to re-develop bicycle and pedestrian trails at Pine Tree/Judd Falls for access to campus and the local area.

5) Organization Issues: None

6) Scheduling next meeting: May 2, 5-7, at Tom's

7) Set future agenda items

- Review of design process

Rough blog publishing plan: (needs rearranging!)

March: Local foodsheds (Chris Peters)

April: Local wood heat (Tony Nekut)

May: Local biofuel production (Tycho Dan)

June: Household preparation, part 2 (Kate)

July: Health Care Resources, Part 2 (Bethany Schroeder)

August: Food Production Systems (Karl North)

Draft Terry on the economy related to the peak of oil or the effect of PO on big box stores, if able.