

TCLocal Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2009

Present: Jon Bosak, Krys Cail, John Graves, Angelika St. Laurent, Simon St. Laurent, Bethany Schroeder, Tom Shelley

1) TCLocal's future: What are we doing and why are we doing it? What is our value-added related to everything else that's going on. Our writing project typically offers more explorations than recommendations. Angelika says it's worth doing in terms of getting information out to the community. Tom points out that very few other organizations offer a systems thinking approach to the current set of problems related to resource depletion. Should we instead become a transitions town site? Tom and Simon agree that we have so many people already invested in the work they're already doing that it's hard to imagine people would be willing to turn their attention to a very different approach to the problem, one that would require total concentration to create a success. Simon says that with respect to a transitions town the political system in and across the County poses problems. The villages and townships are busy making strides with activities like biomass development, whereas the city and town of Ithaca work, sometimes, at cross purposes. We ask questions that other people aren't willing to address, and the questions are pertinent to the local area. It's hard to get people to really ask questions about local issues. The revised "plan" is now linked from the site, and Jon will change the sidebar to the articles to focus on "exploration" versus a plan that people can or should execute. Jon observes that the economy will stumble along for another year or more, especially given that the production of liquid fuels is now widely agreed to be insufficient to meet demand. Because people won't be able to see much change in their lives, they won't recognize that the changes, insidious as they'll be, are permanent.

2) Printing the first collection of TCLocal articles

- Status: Will try to be ready for printer by the end of the coming week. 11X7, 40 pages or so.
- Distribution: Area leadership and some of the local hot spots.

3) Website

- Jon: Foodsheds reporting based on Chris's recently published papers and some of the slides from a local agricultural conference; a long popularization to appear in May/June.
- Server admin (Simon): Hasn't had the time to work on the stats, but the server itself is working well.
- Repository development progress - Simon and Jon: Jon is now responsible for the next phase.
- Need to rearrange upcoming articles: Articles below in accurate order insofar as Jon knows now.

4) Outreach / Interactions with other organizations: Jon, Bethany, and Seph attended a book group meeting with NWAEG members. Then Jon and Bethany attended a NWAEG meeting with hopes of recruiting contributors. Some of the members say they are interested in working on articles. Jon, Bethany, and Tom attended the Cayuga Sustainability meeting; CSC plans to use a Wiki to maintain contact. Tom is now on the environmental advisory board at CCE, where some of the members have suggested

more big-picture thinking. He's also on the CCE facilities committee, which is working on an expansion for CCE.

4) Local municipal issues

- TCAT: 6 more buses on order (hybrids).
- Natural gas exploration issues, which have been getting some media attention.
- Greenhouse gas exploration through the common council/City of Ithaca, with a vision of how GHGs may effect the City, and will include another discussion about the local water options.
- RPM Ecosystems got stimulus money for expansion.
- A short discussion of the progress of a biomass project at Cayuga Nature Center.

5) Organization Issues – Chair Election: Tom Shelley unanimously replaces Simon, at Simon's request. Thanks, Tom.

6) Next meeting: June 6, 5-7, at Tom's house.

7) Set future agenda items: notify Tom with suggestions and requests.

Rough blog publishing plan:

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)