

TCLocal Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2010

Held at Tom Shelley's house, 118 E. Court St., Ithaca, NY, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

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

- 1) Initializing the meeting:
 1. Review of the minutes of the previous meeting: no changes.
 2. Review/modification of agenda: items added.
 3. Introductions: none.
 4. Develop a contact list for current TCLocal contributors: phone numbers taken. **AI:** Jon to collate information and circulate to members.
 5. Scheduling articles: monthly schedule is something to shoot for but we agree that quality is more important than the schedule.

- 2) Website items
 1. Review of Krys Cail's article on biomass: most people hadn't had a chance to read it. Work is more focused on the present than other pieces we've done, which are more future oriented. Karl recommended considering other heating opportunities in the Danby section of the article. John remarked that the Danish model took off because of the oil crisis in 1973.
 2. Future articles – develop revised publishing schedule into 2010:
 1. Krys on Biomass: April
 2. Karl #4: May
 3. Karl #5: June
 4. Karl #6: July
 5. Bethany (on Health and Food Security): August
 6. Jon: Current trends in transportation; T of I ag protection plan (Sept?/Oct)
 7. Simon: Emergency services: end of year
 3. Simon has signed us up for a twitter account. He'd like to post pointers to past articles, when appropriate. Other related or simpatico sites/links to be noted and posted, after we're in better control of our material and direction.

- 3) Outreach / Interactions with other organizations
 1. Health and Food Security: Bethany and fellow civic leader held discussion in February. Bethany included how to access TCLocal information.
 2. TC3: Tom was part of a well-received and widely attended presentation of the effects of gas drilling.
 3. TCLocal panel for BTB: members are interested in what to expect in the local response to peak oil and adjustments to energy descent. Bethany will speak to local expectations related to health care, and Karl has agreed to present on area farming organizations and their response to peak oil. Krys says that BTB organizers will ask Katie to represent the work of Prepared Tompkins.
 4. TCLocal presenters at other organizations — Tom will be doing four more presentations on gas drilling hazards; slated for Dryden, NYC, Chenango, T'burg.

- 4) Local municipal issues
 1. Town of Ithaca Agricultural Protection Plan – May eventually become part of the comprehensive plan; the work is derived from a grant that will run for two years, and is

under the aegis of planning staff. To date, all the farmers in town have been interviewed for deep data. Jon has offered to help the group to maintain a mail list. Jon has access to maps used in the planning process. **AI:** Jon will put them in a place where interested TCLocal members can access them. (Tom was involved as an interviewee from the farmer group.)

2. Town of Dryden updates: Simon says that the town board is set to do zoning, although it may get scaled back. Simon will recommend agriculture committee, which is necessary for purchase of development rights. Dryden is cutting 10 teachers; other schools in the county will also experience cuts. TCLocal need to look at schools and related funding, and wider use of the schools themselves.
3. Small Farms conference at CU 3/5: Jon explained that the organizers were looking for methods of measurement to determine success and to write grants. Greatest need noted in the livestock group at the conference was for mobile slaughtering equipment, about which prohibitions at USDA level exist. The problems is the discharge of blood and other body tissues; TCLocal members wondered about the feasibility of a local in-situ slaughterhouse.

5) Open discussion: (40 min.)

- Should we set up a longer meeting to discuss the role and purpose of TCLocal? So determined. Members will meet Saturday, April 10, 6-9, at the Free Clinic. Bring a dish to pass. The primary discussion point will be TCLocal's role in the changing or transitioning issues that are covered by state and federal regulations. Please note; this is not a retreat but an advance.

6) Next meeting: April 3, 5-7, Jon and Bethany's house.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Schroeder