

TCLocal Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2010

Held at 118 E. Court St., Ithaca, NY, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Present: Jon Bosak, Krys Cail, John Graves, Terry Moore, Karl North, Bethany Schroeder, Tom Shelley

1. Meeting commenced at 5.

- Review of the minutes of the previous meeting: Accepted without changes.
- Review/modification of agenda: None
- Introductions: None required.

2. Website items

- Review of Karl's article, Visioning County Food Part 4; **AI:** Jon will send Karl County Ag plan draft and Tom will share a couple of photos of urban gardens.
- Jon brought up community gardens being included in town land plans. Ordinance is required for set asides; a concrete case will be included at Town Planning Board meeting 5/4, which includes 1.6 acre lot, some of which could be used for a community garden.
- Karl reported on visit from two people from Rochester who are working on a design to relocalize agriculture in that region. Karl will provide information about the project, as available.
- Next article(s): Karl is working on Part 5.

3. Report on the Advance and group discussion, Jon: group agreed to a vision of gradual decline, increasing poverty, inequitable distribution of goods and services; but the short-term is more hopeful than we all previously believed. We also agreed that TCLocal's articles should be targeted to whichever entities can be influenced.

4. What we're doing is a form of advocacy and is in keeping with our resources: a short discussion of TCLocal's activities.

5. Outreach / Interactions with other organizations: None.

6. Tompkins County Climate Protection plan: included a review of article of net energy sources; organizers suggested TCLocal attend the meetings, perhaps monthly. Agreed that we'll figure out our position and then decide attendance.

7. Local municipal issues

- TCAT – Jon: re-started citizens advisory committee; Jon has been appointed to TCAT Planning Committee.
- Town of Ithaca Planning Board – Jon included information about Ag Plan group, which has good meetings and lots of local contacts. Jon will arrive at initial description of what the Ag Committee looks like and its various functions.
- City of Ithaca updates – John: had email about the town's comprehensive plan; asked whether anyone had heard anything new. Urban agriculture should be included in discussions. Chickens, bees, and rabbits under discussion in the city.

8. Open discussion

Kry's topic of Conservation Zones:

Town of Ulysses, comprehensive plan identified environmentally sensitive areas. Discussion of considerations promoting planning efforts. Conservation zone and lake shore zoning committees formed and will develop draft recommendations. Volunteer effort (no staff available). Trying to protect land against gas drilling and to develop sensible forestry practices. Tom and Jon wondered why Ulysses didn't just reproduce the Town of Ithaca's plan.

Bethany's topic of using a portion of each meeting for discussion of ideas (vs. practical matters):

As much as I value discussions of municipal issues at our meetings, I would also like to see us take time to talk about the deep issues that formed TCLocal in the first place: peak oil, climate change, energy updates, trends that seem to be changing our social fabric, the development of strategies toward localization, increased awareness in the news and print media about all of the aforementioned topics.

John may have a contributor in mind for a relevant topic.

9. Election of new chair: Tom elected by acclamation.

10. Next meeting: June 5, 5-7, at Tom's. Meeting adjourned at 7.

Publication schedule for 2010, to date:

- 1.. Karl #4: May
2. Karl #5: June
3. Karl #6: July
4. Bethany (on Health and Food Security): August (maybe, if she can get resources)
5. Jon: Current trends in transportation; Town of Ithaca Ag protection plan (Sept/Oct?)
6. Simon: Emergency services: end of year

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Schroeder