

Minutes of the Meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group, 7/14/15

Present: Barbara Voymas, Max Nunnemaker, Maury Collins, Dave Upton.

David called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

After review, the motion by Barbara Voymas, seconded by Max Nunnemaker, to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 7/2/15 as presented was approved can unanimous consensus.

Dave Upton reported that David Voymas has agreed to do a second presentation for our community. The title of David's presentation will be "Sustainability and Stewardship". The Town Hall has been reserved for the evening of August 18 for that purpose. Max Agreed to design a poster for advertising the event referencing the original poster design and changing the content to say, "A second in a series of presentations by David Voymas".

The Group began a discussion of the messages contained in the first 4 chapters of the "Transition Handbook".

Chapter 1. clearly describes the importance of the linkage between peak oil and man created climate change. If people do not understand the dire consequences of climate change, we will continue to attempt to exploit every conceivable remaining fossil fuel after petroleum is no longer available. We must find alternatives to the use of fossil fuels before we have completely destroyed our environment.

Chapter 2. discusses the possible scenarios for mankind post peak oil, including Adaptation, Evolution, or Collapse. The implications of the "Four Energy Scenarios, by Bryn Davidson, figure 9 on page 48, were discussed at some length.

Chapter 3. speaks to the concept of resilience. A quote from page 54 is as follows: *“Resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks.”* Nelson had a resilient economy in the early 20th century. Today, as stated on page 54 of Chapter 3, “We have become completely reliant on the utterly unreliable, and have no Plan B. We are only three days away from hunger at any moment.”

Chapter 4. describes the need for relocalization of our economy. A definition of relocalization is provided on page 68 of Chapter 4. *“The process by which a region, county, city or even neighborhood frees itself from an overdependence on the global economy and invests its own resources to produce a significant portion of the goods, services, food and energy it consumes from its local endowment of financial, natural and human capital.”* Peak oil will drive the us to a reliance on a more localized economy. When liquid fuels are very expensive and difficult to obtain, the transportation needs of a global economy can no longer be met. From page 70, “The Oil Age can be seen as a 200 year period which enabled us to move away from a primarily local focus and then to move back to it again.”

The next meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group is scheduled for August 4 at 7 pm in the Meeting Room. The Group agreed to read chapters 5, 6 &7 of the “Transition Handbook” for discussion at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Upton