

Minutes of the Meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group, 8/4/15

Present: Barbara Voymas, Barbara Fraser, Megan Straughen, Deke Conklin, Dave Upton.

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

After review, the motion by Barbara Voymas, seconded by Dave, to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of 7/14/15 as presented was approved by unanimous consensus.

The group discussed preparations for David Voymas' presentation, "Sustainability and Stewardship" to be held in the Town Hall at 7 pm on August 18. Max had developed a poster for advertising. Megan took one to post at the Keene Co-Op and Barbara Fraser took three for posting in Harrisville and in other locations. Dave U. agreed to ask Edie to email a copy of the poster to the Shopper News with a cover letter stating that we have not purchased advertising in any other media. Both Barbara F. and Barbara V. will bake for refreshments. Barbara F. will bring coffee. Dave U. will ask Max to bring cookies or juice and also to bring Lisa's easel. Members will meet at 6:30 pm on 8/18 to assist with the setup of the hall.

Dave U. asked the group to consider the proposed purchase of a gravel pit for the use of the Nelson Highway Department in terms of its impact on a resilient and powered-down future for our community. No consensus was established on these two topics, however the group unanimously agreed that a public informational meeting should be held by the Nelson Select Board before the purchase was finalized.

The Group began a discussion of the messages contained in chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the "Transition Handbook".

Chapter 5. describes "Visioning" as a concept with which we "engage creatively with

the process of adaptation to energy decent, seeing our future in increased resilience, more localized economies and greatly reduced energy consumption”.

Chapter 6. discusses the psychology of change and relates oil consumption to addiction as a “problematic substance use” that is hazardous, and harmful and upon which we have become dependent. Hazardous and harmful in terms of climate change and future energy famine, and dependent in that we continue an activity even when that activity is recognized as being potentially lethal.

Chapter 7. speaks to the power of “positive vision”. Constructing a positive plan for the future of a community will achieve greater success toward transitioning to a sustainable powered-down reality than will any attempt to portray the consequences of a failure to act. Brian Goodwin envisions a future in which we will “use appropriate technology, natural materials and energy to achieve a lifestyle in which we blend with the natural world”.

The next meeting of the Nelson Sustainability Group is scheduled for August 19 at 7 pm in the Meeting Room. The Group agreed to read chapters 8 & 9 of the “Transition Handbook” for discussion at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Upton