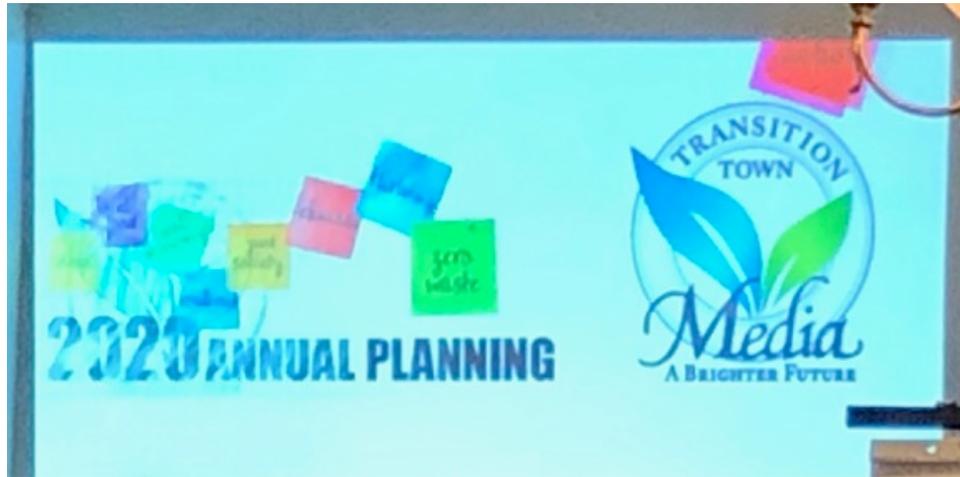




TTM Planning Meeting
Saturday Feb. 1, 2020
Media Borough Hall Parlor Room, 301 N Jackson St, Media 19063



9:00AM

Opening:

- Sari opened the meeting
- Aleisa followed with remarks to honor the native people of this land, the Lenni-Lenape, protectors of the earth.
- Rhonda led us in a meditation of purpose to set the tone and energy for the day.
- Sari started us off in an exercise. There was a small terracotta pot of soil on each table with a cup of water. Sunflower seeds were passed out to everyone to plant in the pots. A person from each table took them home at the end of the day.



Why is it called the “Transition” Movement?

- Aleisa Myles

Transition is what we are all in, all of us are in the midst of change - changes in the Environment, Economy, Equity and Energy.



- Environment:
 - Climate crisis, chaos and change. Buffered from it here in this community where we are further from the front-line communities. Yet we still notice things changing. Fewer birds, changes in insect population, extremes or volatility in the weather. But we do not need to relocate to another village, because we still have water in the tap.
 - Gradual change is harder to grasp and grapple with than immediate change.
 - People we know may live in wildfires, drought, climate refugees.
 - We know there is a sense of immediacy but we’re not sure how it will affect our community.
 - Young people are organizing like never before...climate strikes.

- Economy changing:
 - Ticker tape indexes, absurdity
 - Rich getting richer, poor getting poorer, wage gaps, wage slavery, economic exploitation.
 - Perversity of dissociating money and profit from people.
 - Systems shifting and changing because they are unsustainable.
 - People experimenting with alternative economic systems – time banks, alternative currency, bit coin.
 - Indigenous people built exchanges into their culture
 - Example of an economy that works – the rain forest. Cyclical, circular, regenerative.
 - Much is shifting – in some ways becoming more exploitive and, in some ways, going back to what is good and loving is also happening.

- Equity changing:
 - Marginalized, power structures, what they do and how they affect people.
 - So many historical legacies of inequity
 - Today, more people who hold privilege are better able to think about it and find it in our social discourse and join up with others in solidarity.
 - Still so much to be done.
 - Think of privilege as a disconnect or distance or numbness to our whole worlds collective struggle.
 - Reconnect and build our relationships into right relationships.
 - Live equitably – so much to learn yet.

- Energy change
 - Extractive fossil fuel industry that has catalyzed the rapid growth and destruction of the environment.
 - Requires more and more resources to extract less fuel.
 - Faced with direct awareness of pipelines, natural gas, fracking, carbon emissions

- Limits posed.
- Renewable energy, solar, wind, hydro, battery storage, conserving energy

In the midst of all of these changes that are happening, we might say that Transition is what we are all in. And the movement is about being intentional about these changes. How do we focus our intention so the transitions that are happening, happen in a good and just way?

Four ways the transition movement focuses us with intention:

1. Focuses on transformation. At the core of what we do is to think transformatively. Not just patch holes in the bucket, rather work to create a new bucket that holds all that we need.
2. The head, the heart, and the hands – works holistically, whole beings. Importance of hands and our doing. Heads – what we gather with our senses and what we think. Work in a wholesome and holistic way.
3. Permaculture principles: All beings are interconnected; one big web. Systems are living self-organizing systems that we can learn from and mimic and follow nature in the terms of the way we design our landscapes, social landscapes, and more
4. Scale and Structure – Community scale, making a difference beyond our selves. At the level of the community we can have maximal impact. Yet at the same time it is a global network, like nodes in a mycelial network. Anyone, anywhere, that is doing this work, whatever they call themselves, is part of the movement.

Dancing in the spaces between. Working at the edges can be unsettling, but it need not be approached with fear. Look forward to it with creativity. Reality meets fantasy. A place where children play – finding that in-between edge space where there can be play. This edge space in transition gives birth to creativity. In permaculture, it is the edges that are full of potential too.

Are we there yet? How do we know?

- There is nothing we work on that is too small to matter.
- We will know the moments when we are there; they will be affirming, life-giving because we will feel it in our souls. When our hands are warm, when our hearts choose without reluctance, when our head brings our senses in tune with the rest.

Review of 2019 accomplishments – Sari



Plan was to have fewer events, but more impactful ones.

Events:

1. Climate, Consciousness and Community Summit – we collaborated with Kosmos Journal on a 2-day event in conjunction with the longer event in Findhorn, Scotland. The live-streamed keynotes from

Scotland were excellent. Even better were the talks from our local climate heroes and experts. We'd love to do more events like this!

2. Comedy Night – Julie organized this fundraiser with comic Jimmy Carroll. A fun night!
3. Free Market – this event has gotten too popular for us to handle any more. It's outgrown our venue and was more than we could manage even with full staffing. We tried the Great Media Curb Alert as an alternative, but it didn't really take off, so we may not repeat it.
4. Media Open Streets – a very successful event both years, but it was an extraordinary amount of work. May need to rethink it, reimagine it, or just get a lot more people on board to pull it off.
5. Green Sunday Holiday Fair – organized by Julie again this year. Vendors signed up early, so they seem to be getting value out of the event. Typically, our best fundraising event.
6. Winter Solstice Celebration – organized by Joni. Since we outgrew the UU church, we held it this year in Clothier Hall at Swarthmore College. A beautiful venue, but we had to hold it on a Friday night rather than on a Sunday and there were less than half of the usual attendees. We may need to make changes to keep it viable. We welcome ideas for an alternative space.

Projects:

1. The Free Store – going strong after 5-1/2 years, won a Town Talk award for the second year, has over 9,000 followers on Facebook. Creating a sharing economy and generous, caring community.
2. Media Eats Local – a new project this year, organized & researched by Joanne Rosenbaum, Donna Cusano, and Carol Fanelli, with artwork by Maureen McCafferty. They created a local food resource guide, available on our website. The goal for 2020 is to make it more available and encourage people to eat more locally grown food.
3. Media Circle of Aunts and Uncles – we created a fund that gives low-interest loans to under-resourced entrepreneurs for environmentally sustainable and socially just business projects. We met two goals in our first year: raised \$20,000 for the fund and made our first loan award to Verdant Earth Educators, a business started by two women horticultural professionals to teach sustainable horticulture practices – pruning, mulching, etc. – to municipalities, large institutions, and others.
4. Collaborating with Media's Environmental Advisory Council: Pilot project for weekly kitchen scrap pick-ups – in its second year, 10% of Media households participate. Other communities nearby are asking about how to start one.
5. Yards Facebook group (managed by Donna Cusano) – a group of folks who love natural, edible or native-plant gardens in their yards.
6. TTM Swap, Share, Meet Facebook group – an online free store, creating a caring community.
7. Inner Transition and Heart and Soul – both active working groups, Heart & Soul is about celebrating our community, our spirit; Inner Transition is more meditative and reflective.

Connections:

- Transition US – we have great connections through the National Transition Hub which convenes its own working groups on topics like REconomy (re-imagined economy), Social Justice, and Politics & Policy. Aleisa announced that the second National Transition Gathering will take place June 11-14, 2020 in Vermont.
- Regional Hub – an informal network of support among Transition Towns from the Mid-Atlantic states (PA, MD, DE, and NJ)
- Two new Transition Towns formed in 2019 – Phoenixville PA and Glassboro NJ
- Parkside – a fledgling Transition Town that we're helping to support
- Keep Media Green – a new connection with leaders Robin Lasersohn and Terry Rumsey. Check out their benefit concert with John McCutcheon on March 29th.

Behind the Scenes:

- Finances – our financials are in great shape for the 10th year in a row. We've received a couple of grants this year, from the Borough of Media and from the Post Carbon Institute
- We designed some beautiful, large & sturdy tote bags to give in appreciation to our donors, volunteers, and partners, and are also selling them as a fundraiser for \$20 each
- Communications/website/newsletter/social media – we're planning a new communications overhaul in 2020, including a website redesign, video messaging, and a new social media director
- It's a critical time for our climate, our economy, and our society. We're committed to working on all these tough issues – and have fun doing it!

9:59AM

Giving gifts:

Aleisa led an exercise outside passing the globe, saying our name, saying one good thing, naming gifts we would wish to give the world, the region, the borough, our inner selves. The purpose for the circle was to begin identifying the issues most dear to our hearts and to hear what others in our group were committed to.



10:32AM

Discuss ideas that came up in the circle, first within the table groups and then with the whole room.

Discussion at note takers table:

- Implement aspects of the circular economy by investing in local entrepreneurs that will be doing plastic recycling locally.
- A forum to discuss and get all the ideas out about recycling, Circular Economy, Curb My Clutter
- Criminal justice reform – mitigate the effects of incarceration, employment of returning citizens, counseling. We have a good DA now – keep the pressure on to make good choices
- How to get young people involved: invite, invent.
- A marinating session. Awakening the unconscious.
- Get the schools involved, get the churches more involved

10:46AM

Rhonda, Aleisa, and Sari led the room in generating ideas, intentions and aspirations and collecting them on colored sticky notes. The idea was to create a mind map of our collective dreams.

Martin described that after lunch we would go through a process to classify the ideas, grouping them into categories: 1) Go for it, 2) Maybe, yes, 3) Needs more clarification and 4) Parking Lot (save for later).

Going table by table the ideas that were expressed are:

- Develop deeper and wider alliances. Groups in Media and Delaware County should invite elected officials from other counties. Delaware County institute of Science would like to be interacting more with the Borough officials. Asked the question if there were any elected officials present. There were two – one on the Borough Council for Media, one on Parkside's.
- Community Projects Mash Up Solutions – build an infrastructure to support cross collaboration to get community projects done.
- Circular economy – EAC talking about how to raise awareness about recycling, reduce waste to zero. Wants to work on a forum on recycling, and waste reduction. Get all the ideas and questions and perspectives out there, talked about, argued about.
- Begin to take on projects as a group, rather than waiting for Gandhi to show up. Very impressed with year in review. The FreeStore is a Rock Star - our hearts tell us to expand that. Riddle Thrift Store is losing their space, let's look for another space, have an expanded FreeStore, possibly with an alliance with a for-profit, like Riddle. [In a side bar it was mentioned that if this happened maybe there would be space – a dedicated parking lot where the Free Market could start up again.]
- Community building that is inter-generational. Needs to organically grow out of people's real interest. Examples - Pocket park, housing, accessibility, co-housing, inter-generational space in our community. Reach out to sympathetic teachers and see if they are aware of programs that might be implemented. Bring high profile young person climate activist to Media and work with teachers, and also a concert.
- Conscientious investing: gather financial advisors who are experts in accounts that support companies that are doing mindful work. Green financial advisors that this group could form a relationship with.
- Get young people involved – climate change is the number 1 priority. Really important to get young people involvement, children as young as 6 years old.
- Council of All Beings exercise. Activity in which people of all ages come together and each person speaks as though they are speaking for a being – bees, water, mayor, ancestors. A way to have conversations. Transformational theater.
- 1- or 2-day climate conference in Media. Maybe focus on youth.

- Fire circle, music, drumming, storytelling. Organic. Let's do it ourselves. Storytelling circle. Bring in youth to give them hope. Organized event.
- Howard (Transition Philadelphia) – we have built up a tremendous amount of momentum. People in Philly are hungry to have what we already have. Would go a long way to reinforce others and add positive things to them. Maybe a Transition Town speakers' bureau to go out and share in other communities. Maybe a speakers' exchange. Or a regional meeting.
- Local food awareness. Social media, video. Sustainable foods calendar. Regional supply chains. Connect with Judy Wicks.
- YouTube channel for Transition Town media. Global Sunrise Project.
- Justin – 15-acre farm in NJ, looking for better ways to use the farm. She (owner) gets a farm assessment from somebody that grows a crop there. She would like to have permaculture. Has a huge bonfire pit. Would be thrilled to host a large gathering there.
- Community makeover.
- Soulful cannabis – model cannabis demo business starting with hemp, open source, fair wage, non-profit, transparency. The best we can be.
- Recognize businesses that send people home with paper rather than plastic. Star stickers. Plastic reduction campaign.
- Coalition building around community rights. Create templates.
- Criminal justice reform: we have a new DA who is really in a good place. How can we help to mitigate the effects of mass incarceration in our community? Needs are employment, counseling, healing from trauma, youth anxiety; transition services; comfort spaces for trauma.
- Implement aspects of the circular economy by investing in local entrepreneurs that will be doing plastic recycling locally. Our recycler is Mascaro, able to recycle a very clean product, very new equipment. They say they have no problem recycling and selling the product.

Break for Lunch and signing Thank You/Appreciation cards:



12:29PM

Winnowing



During lunch, Martin and Rhonda got a start on grouping and categorizing the ideas.

The group reconvened and Martin led the effort to further group the ideas and have the participants vote on which ones they would support. The rules were to vote for 5 things at most. To vote for those that we thought we could give at least an hour of our time to support. Vote for what we think we can be part of.

First, Martin ran through the following quick descriptions.

Wheelhouse – ideas that really fit well or are already in the works:

- Local food initiative, marketing, sustainable food calendar, videos, 360 camera, video committee, YouTube
- Trash reduction, recognize businesses that reduce trash, waste reduction recycling, event to talk about recycling story
- Local supply chain, Judy Wicks, Green investment
- FreeStore – expand to larger space, profits and non-profits
- Solstice, Green Sunday, Open Streets

Community:

- Local officials
- Community make over, mash up idea, volunteers
- Community rights gathering
- Teachers to support
- Intergeneration space
- Local farm in NJ, Permaculture, earth share
- Criminal justice, affordable housing, demo farm cannabis

Events

- Storytelling circles
- Council of Being
- Regions, talks
- 1-2 youth conference
- youth activist
- climate change with youth

Then we went through the ideas in detail and voted:

Events:

- Forum with Kosmos (like the CCC Summit) with youth, bringing in young climate activists. Reaching out to teachers. Climate change. Ally to young people – 13 votes.

- Storytelling circles. Alternative voices. Gathering around a fire. Dancing. Music. Drum circle. Council of All Beings. Spaces for trauma. Criminal justice reform. Healing spaces. – 20 votes.

Community:

- Community rights gathering. Begin learning about community rights and then collaborate and build alliances. Share positive views, transition regional talks, community building, networking, speakers' bureau. Aligning with local groups and elected officials. – 15 votes.
- Farming NJ space, local food, "greens in your front yard", farm group, cannabis demo. Partner with local food. – 7 votes.
- Intergenerational space to dialog and share resources. Communication spaces. Decided that under each initiative, to make it intergenerational – Mothership provide guidance. Not voted on.
- Skills space, community makeovers, garden, back yard, fun kind of way. – 12 votes.
- Affordable housing and co-housing idea. An ad-hoc group has already been getting together for year and about to bring a proposal to the council. DelcoTransition.org has a working group. Co-housing info available from Marie Goodwin. Decided not to do a project that is already covered by others. Not voted on.
- Visual reality for the organization. Messaging of our website content. Media / communications committee. – 11 votes.
- Circular economy, trash reductions, recognize business. Recycling group. Day-long forum. – 17 votes.

Wheelhouse:

- Regional supply chain, Judy Wicks, regional economy. Circle of Aunts and Uncles. Conscientious investing. Green business. – 7 votes.
- FreeStore expansion, funding – 6 votes.
- Winter Solstice Celebration, any Heart & Soul activity, Gratitude events – 5 votes.
- Media Open Streets, collaborate with the EAC, look for other organization to collaborate with to share the load, reimagine it – maybe more of a block party. – 3 votes.
- Green Sunday – helping Julie, local artists, local economy. – 8 votes.

1:14PM

Vote with stars



Each person was given two red and three yellow sticky-note stars. Red means – willing to spearhead, Yellow means – willing to help.

12 groups were put together and represented by short descriptions on note cards. Each participant wrote their name on the voting stars and stuck them on the projects to indicate which projects or events they'd like to lead or support.

1:34PM

Wrap up

Martin led us through an exercise to identify a leader for the first meeting for each of the 12 groups - a point person to organize a meeting or conference call, for about an hour or two. The Mothership group will provide reference sheet to guide discussion and a Zoom account to facilitate calls. An important question to ask is, "What does "done" look like for the year?"



1. Karen is the point person for Recycling/Waste.
2. Climate and Youth conference - Rhonda.
3. Green Sunday – Julie.
4. Local Farm Group – Skip.
5. Community outreach – Aleisa.
6. Storytelling / Healing – Marie.

7. Regional supply chain – Linda.
8. Community makeover – Martin.
9. Solstice and Spirit – Joni.
10. Open Streets – Scott Wittman from the EAC and Sari
11. Videos & media – Donna
12. FreeStore 2.0 – Jona

Robin closed out the day by reading the following poem, a feminized revision of the original.

Couldn't Be Done

By Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But, she with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but she would be one
Who wouldn't say so 'til she had tried.
So, she buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On her face. If she worried, she hid it.
She started to sing as she tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and she did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one has done it";
But she took off her coat and she took off her hat,
And the first thing we knew, she'd begun it.
With a lift of her chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting,
She started to sing as she tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and she did it.
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure;

There are thousands to point out to you one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you;

But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;

Just start to sing as you tackle the thing

That “couldn’t be done”, and you’ll do it.