

**Education Minutes**  
**February 11, 2013**  
**8:30-10:00**

**Members & Guest Present:** Jane Edwards, Melissa Hackett, Elery Keene, Susan MacKenzie (guest), Jim Murphy, Bonnie Sammons, Linda Woods

Thanks to Jim for donating a blanket to be used in a fundraising project.

Bonnie presented the results of the survey from those attending Sharing Sustainability held at KVCC on November 6.

Action Items:

Bonnie: Present the results of the survey to the Board on March 5

Bonnie: Send final draft to Linda before February 26

Linda: Send this draft to all who attended

All who are interested: attend the March 5 Board meeting (8:00, IT room, City Hall)

Susan is serving as a citizen involved with Waterville's Comprehensive Planning process. (SMMC members Michael Donihue and Jim Shipsky are in this group as well.) Susan will keep SMMC informed about anything of interest. Anne Beverage showed the group our new strategic vision at its first meeting.

Susan summarized the learning circles that she introduced at the annual meeting. Northwest Earth Institute created the process of learning circles as a way for people to talk about difficult issues while building community. Susan has done this before and had groups of 8 to 10.

The highlights of her presentation follow:

- Sample topics: Voluntary Simplicity; Menu for the Future
- Articles to read & guidelines are contained in booklets
- Sequence: circle questions, discussion questions, putting it into practice, further resources
- Each participant gets a booklet and decides as a group which articles will be read.
- Price range \$10 to \$35 (Participants buy their own materials.)
- Maybe include food costs in the price.
- Start with orientation session to distribute books; 5-6 week discussion sessions; end with "celebration"
- One in fall & one in winter/ maybe early spring for gardening
- Maybe a hook (like a membership discount at Barrels)
- Susan will do the first one; some of us will take turns facilitating others
- This can be advertised in *The Townline*, our e-blast list, & posters
- Try to get coverage in *The Sentinel*
- Send a mailing to Rotary, elected officials

Action Items:

All: by Feb 22, Check out nwei.org look for discussion course (vertically arranged on the right side); send by email to all prioritizing the circles for potential community interest  
Susan: Announce these circles at the comprehensive planning meetings

A discussion followed about the importance of publicizing events. How do we reach the “unreachable?”

Suggestion for the future: Develop a list of every potential media & contact info

Various ideas to honor Earth Day were discussed. Since Earth Day celebrations have been poorly attended in the past, the idea of holding something outdoors was dismissed. Current ideas are to have either a renowned speaker about reducing fossil fuel consumption or a movie with a discussion. Maybe do both?

The consensus was for the Education Team to coordinate what area colleges & communities are doing, create a “menu of opportunities,” and get this publicized. Can we find a corporate sponsor for ½ page ad in *The Sentinel*?

Action Items:

Linda: arrange a tour of Skills for this group in May

Bonnie: Contact *The Sentinel* about the cost

Jim: After hearing from Bonnie, contact Johnny’s & Fedco about sponsoring

Linda: Check with 350.Central Maine about Earth Day

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, March 12 at 8:30 at Barrels** (use the front door).

Agenda:

Earth Day:

coordinate events—How? Where? When?;

speaker—Who? When? Where?;

movie—What? (Jim has *Genetic Roulette*.) When? Where?

Learning Circles: What sequence? When? Where? Who?