

Fellowship for Intentional Community
Minutes of the Spring '93 Board Meeting
May 28-29-30 • Sirius Community • Shutesbury, MA

Board Members attending: Betty Didcoct (Turtle Island Earth Stewards), Caroline Estes (Alpha Farm), Dan Questenberry (Shannon Farm), Elph Morgan (Osterweil House), Geoph Kozeny (Community Catalyst Project), Gordon Sproule (Alt., Twin Oaks), Harvey Baker (Dunmire Hollow), Ira Wallace (Twin Oaks), Laird Schaub (Sandhill Farm), SYD Fredrickson (Alt.), Tom Starrs (Alt., Green Pastures).

Also attending during the course of the three days: Arthur Gladstone (CMag subscriber), Ben Lipman (Timeweave), Brian, Chad Fuller (Sirius), Corinne McLaughlin (Sirius), Coyote & son Mark (Healing Grace Sanctuary), Devon (Twin Oaks), Don Brickell, Don Karp (Sirius), Eddie Bickles (film maker) & friend Mary Caseriro. Ellen Butler, Freddie (Sirius), Gordon Davidson (Sirius), Jenny Upton (Shannon Farm), John Burke (SEADS of Truth), John Roshak (Sirius), Joshua Laskin, Larry Reader (Ganas), Loren Schein (Ganas), Pacho Lane & friend Deborah (RIT), Paul Freundlich (Co-op America), Peggy Loftfield (Sirius), Robert Dove (Common Unity).

***** FRIDAY, MAY 28 *****

SESSION ONE • 9:00 AM Friday — SYD [F], Harvey [R]

Welcome: (Peggy) It's been great to have community-experienced visitors here. We had a valuable meeting experience last night with some of the FIC folks; everybody even stayed awake!

A/C Report: (Laird) The A/C has done lots of work since the last board meeting. We spent considerable time on the subject of how to respond to the bill we had been sent by USI, and decided to pay the entire bill except the labor overages. Our cover letter invites them to meet with us in person if they want to discuss the overage charges we did not pay. We got a brief reply to our letter from Don Pitzer saying that he had referred the matter to Vice President Reid. We left it that any further action would require an initiative from their end; so far there has been no request.

We talked last meeting about the FEC's Friends of Community program, and the possibility of taking over the program or the name. Laird was charged with the task of investigating if there could be a friendly transition, and he talked with FEC at their meeting after ours. They agreed to give us the name, and to rename their fund-raising outreach program "Friends of the Federation."

We talked about A/C commitment. It has recently meant coming two days early and staying three days after. The rest of the group is asked to observe A/C accessibility during the breaks, and give feedback about it later.

Interim A/C meeting: (Laird) Betty, Caroline, Geoph, Laird, Anne, Ella, SYD came together in February for 3 days at Betty's. The main focus was the staff structure reorganization for the Celebration due to Annie & Es's departure. The A/C considered Allen Butcher's letter suggesting that we set up individuals as representatives for regional FIC activities. There was concern that FIC is still not well known in many areas, and reps who didn't communicate the breadth of the FIC's openness could create misconceptions that would be hard to erase. It was decided that the organization is not yet ready to give such permission, and FIC's name is not available for regional activities without close supervision. We need to continue working on lowering Laird's work load. *Communities* magazine was also discussed.

Administrator's Report: (Betty) We decided to hire an administrator at Celo, though it worked out to be a lot less money than we budgeted because Betty didn't bill for it regularly (when she needed a cash injection, she'd get a check from Laird), and because she got sucked into a full-time role with the Celebration. We had originally agreed that Betty would do administrator work, and that the Celebration would hire another full-time coordinator. Betty spent '92 focused on grant writing, without success, then had to move into supervising the Celebration work when Annie and Es didn't work out. Betty has not been functioning as administrator due to this other work load. She does do the mail routing; there will be no time for doing FIC administrative work until next fall.

Treasurer's Report: (Elph) There are 3 funds: Directory, Celebration, and Memberships. Total balance of the general (membership) account: \$1600. Income is \$2043, expenses \$404. [See attachment A]. This fund is only one piece of the picture. The others will follow in their appropriate reports.

A/C costs: (Betty) We agreed at Celo that the A/C needs interim meetings; we agreed to cover at-meeting expenses. We met at Betty's in February, and the only expense was for food—\$157.

Secretary's Report: (Laird) Laird and Betty share the correspondence job. A small fraction is complaints: people visiting communities finding them different than the listing would indicate; and communities complaining about visitors. For complaints of the first type, we listen first, then contact the community to get their side of the story; we aren't in a position to visit every possible problem place. We have had good results trying to clear up misunderstandings. We haven't refused listings for the Directory because of complaints. In the second area: we contacted a community that was being explored by a person who had been a serious problem for 2 other communities, and gave the new group contact information for the 2 groups that had previously reported problems. In the case of Cerro Gordo, we included information

in the Directory referencing letters published in Communities Magazine about different views of CG. As to legal exposure, Laird feels that we are not legally liable because we have a disclaimer in the front of the Directory. Larry suggests that we keep information about problems on file. Laird asks complainers to be specific about the details of the problems.

Task: If other people get complaint information, it should be sent to Laird. Make sure there are names, addresses, dates, and phone numbers.

Betty: 95% of our calls are for the Celebration; a few are from people finding us through the Matrix Institute. (they're fearful of big changes and are focusing on Colorado as a safe place).

SESSION TWO • 11:00 AM Friday — Caroline [F], Betty [R]

New Directory : (Laird & Geoph) We have about 2,000 copies left out of 18,000 printed. We have not been able to meet our original target publication date of July 1993 for the new Directory. Sales of the old Directory have slowed somewhat. Traditionally there is a surge of interest in the spring and we will have some response to the reference in the current *New Age* magazine

Snapshot of financial statement: Cash on hand at Sandhill \$6,500, Alpha has about \$1,000 and Laird is not sure of the current status at Twin Oaks. We have close to \$40,000 in assets. Debts equal \$16,000. Bad debt is only around \$200 from approximately \$100,000 in gross cash flow. We have finished paying off Dan, and paid \$5,000 to Sandhill since the last meeting.

Directory Computer Database: East Wind is developing a computer program which they would sell to allow users computer access to the Directory data base. It will *only* use information already available in the Directory, and will be a companion piece to the Directory, not a replacement. They will pay FIC a royalty of \$1.00 per program.

Timeline: We had planned to have the new Directory out this summer; we cannot make that deadline. One reason is that publishing the double issue of CMag took precedence in Geoph's life. The second reason is that communities have been slow to respond. Alpha and Twin Oaks are making followup calls which should be complete in a month or so. There will then be a wait for the returns to come in; the deadline for entry returns will be the end of August. With the Celebration coming up, Geoph will wait to layout the new Directory listings until after the Celebration. Dan and Julie will continue the articles editing process at Shannon. Elph (with help) will continue data entry and chart design. Geoph explained the timeline of the work still to be done. We expect to get it to the printer by November first. Then it will take 6-7 weeks to get back.

Task: Laird will talk with Rick Bickhart at Twin Oaks about doing the new cover.

Discussion: Harvey: How are the labor finances doing? Laird: Geoph has not spent much time yet. Some paid keyboard entry work has been done. Alpha and Twin Oaks will be compensated for their work. We can cover this as we need to with cash on hand — unlike last time when we had work done on credit. Ben: We might include information on regional networks — in a special section. Laird: We have talked about how we wanted to keep the accounting for the Directory separate from our other accounts. We are currently paying Betty's administrative salary out of the Directory funds. Laird is not worried to use money in hand for other FIC projects. In the past some board members have felt that we should have enough money in hand to pay all the publishing costs for the new Directory. We are not in that position right now—the printing bill will be \$15,000, and we have only \$10,000 on hand. However, we have assets of \$40,000 and liabilities of \$16,000. Harvey: I'm comfortable with how we are running now, even tho I had reservations in the past. Ira: The current level we are paying out for support of organizational work is appropriate. Dan agrees as long as we continue to be clear about separation of Directory, Celebration and regular accounts.

Loren: Have we considered buying a printing press? Laird: We do all the publishing work up to the printing, and have tried to seek out community printers. We have shopped around and now are working with a reliable, cost-effective printer. We can look at paying a premium to use a "movement" printer. Caroline notes that we are supporting the movement indirectly by pricing this Directory significantly under comparable publications. We have intentionally kept the prices low, and try to work with people's need. We do offer some damaged copies in those cases. Coyote: We have some no-cash cultures to whom we should be providing them, if necessary. Ben: What about a sliding scale for the Directory? Geoph: Encourage people to buy 5 at a discount, sell 4, and thus get their own copy free. Dan: There is a philosophical issue here about the no-cash economy. Many communities fail because they do not deal with the financial realities. Harvey & Elph: we can do sliding scale pricing as individuals, but not on the business level. Laird: I have been making decisions about reducing the price when appropriate, and I feel I have license in this area.

Laird: We should consider whether we want to seek a mainstream publisher to get wider distribution of the Directory. There could be tie-ins with their publicity (this raises issues about how we are portrayed); we would have fewer direct purchases, and would thereby not get as many names from our purchaser list. We would get less per copy, but might make more money. (Laird has reservations about seeking a mainstream publisher.) Ira mentions that with Kat's book, as soon as it was not bringing in lots of money, the distributors remaindered it) We would have less control over knowing where our copies go, etc.

Geoph: We have a possible connection to have the Directory published in another language. They would provide an fee up front, plus royalties. Gordon: I'm excited about this resource getting out to a broader audience rather than just to the converted. Geoph: I'm interested in exploring a major distributor, especially if we can maintain distribution rights. We might reach many more people. Laird: We might explore doing our own outreach through radio talk shows. That is the outreach I would promote at this time.

Task: A/C should explore more distribution possibilities thru mainstream publishers and/or radio talk shows and come back to the board with possibilities.

Task: Laird should continue working on international translation possibilities.

Agreed: A/C can proceed with a deal if it looks attractive and meets our needs and concerns.

Laird: I am trying to move the supervision of distribution of the Directory into the hands of Logan & Valerie at Twin Oaks.

Geoph: Could we consider changing the Directory's name? i.e. Intentional Communities: The Directory. It is hard to find under "Directory." Listing it under "Communities" or "Intentional" would make finding it more direct. Laird: Communities Directory has some common use already, especially internally. To change it greatly would be problematic. A change will take careful consideration. Tom: The initial directory had dates, Will this one have dates? Betty: We should have distinguishing markings on the cover to be able to identify which directory is which (helpful in working on the phone with inquirers.) Ben: We should let people know from a distance that this is a new edition. Tom: The date could be expanded: '94-'96. Geoph: The first printing had dates on the cover (we don't want dates on any future covers per bookstore/distributor requests); the second and third printings had that distinguishing purple slash and no date.

SESSION THREE • 2:00 PM Friday — Betty [F], Elph [R]

Communities Magazine: (Laird & Geoph) Issue #79 came out last Halloween as we all know. Geoph has completed working on #80/81 and it is now at the printer's. It will be mailed from Sandhill when Laird returns in mid-June. Deborah Altus is working on issue #82 (Fall '93), and is well along. Deborah will put the articles together and Manny (at Twin Oaks) will wrap up the other portions of the magazine.

Budget snippets: \$12,000 for Editor position, half time. Editor will be responsible for ads as well. [see Attachment A2]

A new managing editor for the magazine is needed. Laird is currently filling the role, but feels that he's not doing the job justice. We figure it's a half-time job, and are offering \$12,000. Guest editors would still be used to develop the theme for individual issues. We're not planning to pay authors for articles, but will offer them free copies of mag. We do pay for layout work, desktop publishing, order fulfillment, postage and such. The magazine Editor job would include overseeing ads, making sure all the parts fit together, meeting deadlines, maintaining the style, etc. If the person is not integral to FIC, then the person needs to hold our purpose and goals in view. We have three applications in hand, and want all applicants to attend a board meeting. We will not be in a position to make a decision until after the next board meeting — following the Celebration. We are still interested in new applicants; no doors are closed. The A/C would certainly be enthusiastic about someone applying who has an understanding of our system.

Ira would be interested in pursuing more ads and subscriptions. We are already slightly ahead of our schedule for producing magazines before the Celebration. We are very close to reaching our long-range goal of creating 4 issues a year. Geoph: [while displaying a copy of the orange cartoon issue from last fall] In creating the 80/81 issue, I was aware of layout problems and was thankful for the spirit of Tom Starr's prior critiques (it was as though he were watching over my shoulder). This new issue, on Vision & Leadership, is 96 pages (a double issue!) with 8 guest columnists. Had to leave out some letters to the editor due to lack of space. 4000 copies for this run, available on June 12th at the earliest, maybe 18th.

Paul Freundlich: (Editor of the magazine from '75 thru '84 before turning it over to Charles Betterton). I Started Co-op America in the early 80s, after learning much about Community economics while doing the Mag. We did the Guide to Cooperative Alternatives as we started Coop America, and hoped we would sell more of the magazines thru ads in Coop America's catalog. Could have done better in choosing a successor; Charles Betterton took over and the rest is history - or almost was. Paul thought FIC should have taken over CMag ten years ago, and is now thrilled that it has happened. Will volunteer to guest edit an issue next year; still has a great affection for the publication — it filled a niche that nothing else really has done. It is a subject that is dear to my heart. Paul also helped launched Dance New England, a dance camp, at about the same time as Coop America. DNE now wants a home place, land that is. In the 70s I lived in a commune that had to break up every summer when the owners moved in. Have kept touch with people who wrote for past issues and many of them have still kept their values together.

Brainstorming themes for future issues of Communities Magazine: Economics; Spirituality; Healing; Patterns of Breaking up/Disillusionment; Sustainability; Relationship of traditional to alternative communities; Historical threads from past to future; Cultural baggage; Conflict of values; Comedy; Balance between community needs and group needs; Paradigm shift to the max; Founding principles versus change; Human ecology; Education; Sex; Decision making; Connection between pattern of physical and pattern of social; Rituals and rights of passage; Alternatives to fees/cash; Cultural evolution; Permaculture; Technology; Virtual community; Personal stories; Medical

insurance; Founders; If I/we had it to do over again; Charismatic leaders; Sanctuary/Hospice/Respite; Salvage vehicles; Aging and how Community provides an environment; Potential/promise of community; Ageism as first oppression - Young and old; Developmental stages; Community as a school of living—what happens after graduation?; Secrets in community; Impact on broader culture; Sense of place; Community boundaries; Living in Community without being alienated by your real family; Relations with neighbors; How full is full?; These groups we call cults; Commitment and responsibility; Perspectives on the new communitarian movement; Impossible dream? Changing the course of human history in less than ten years; Rural vs Urban; Personal religious beliefs; Automobile issues; Cars, dogs, food, and dishes; Polyfidelity; Recipes; Employment; Drugs and addiction; Earth changes; Keeping weirdos out; Long-term commitments vs short-term.

Minutes Indexing (Laird) We've been working with Aidan at T.O. about getting our board minutes indexed (all of our minutes from '86 on). Geoph: Do we have a plan as to when to add in new minutes

Task: Laird will ask T.O. about frequency — how often can/should we add new minutes to the set?

Caroline: Do we have CMag indexed? Answer: No. It is the normal thing for magazines such as this to get indexed every 5 to 10 years. And sell the index.

Task: Laird will also check about getting CMag indexed at T.O.

Ben: As a service, make available individual articles from CMag. Geoph: Propose that we pay T.O. for indexing.

Agreed: Board empowers A/C to make decisions concerning T.O. doing indexing.

SESSION FOUR • 4:00 PM Friday — Laird [F], Betty [R]

CESCI (Dan): We need to change our bylaws to proceed with the merger. Need to expand charter of FIC. In the interim we can take CESCI into FIC, populating the CESCI Board with FIC people. Harvey: not clear that all CESCI board members will proceed rationally in this process. May be best if the transfer happens cleanly all at one time. Dan: The Celebration is a perfect time to raise funds for CESCI; all at CESCI are now in agreement to pass the whole thing over to FIC. Current change of FIC bylaws and articles work is to make it legal for FIC to assume management of CESCI funds. We should have it all in place by fall. We should propose a slate of board members in a letter to CESCI; make them an offer. Ira: work is being done to ensure documentation and everything are ready to go in time for the Celebration? [Discussion on this topic will continue tomorrow during discussion about the celebration.] Dan: The CESCI Board is tired of meeting.

Paul: This is a small amount of money. I'm not clear what you want to do with this money, nor am I clear what your target is. If it's to help start communities or community businesses, folks could make estimates about the amount of money they will need. If all you are getting from this is the \$30-40,000 ... then perhaps it is not worth your time. Laird: It's easier to start with something more than zero. Harvey: We cannot run the Homer Morris fund as CESCI has; there are potential problems with the IRS. We have to change the way the fund is operated. I checked with a loan fund assistance bureau, and they did not have enough time to help us (they said FIC is too diverse for their services; we're not just a loan fund entity. Harvey suggests returning the shell to CESCI after we're done with it. Dan: We should set up a separate entity so can work with the national association of loan funds. Harvey: They were not encouraging. Paul: They should be looking at you differently. Can get you contacts that might be more helpful? Some of the funds should be able to help us.

Geoph: CESCI may have made some bad or inappropriate decisions in the past. He shares a concern that assuming CESCI board positions early in the take-over process might bring IRS attention to the people who volunteered to fill the positions. Several in unison: We should plan to keep legal separation as long as possible.

Note: It may be hard to gather CESCI folks for their last meeting. This can be done over the phone- it involves getting permission on a person by person basis. Dan: It would be convenient if loan funding were part of our bag of tricks.

Questions we want answered: What changes in bylaws are necessary? Betty: Let us discuss this at our fall meeting. Let's see what happens over the summer, and what comes up during the gathering. Caroline: We have a potential opportunity to loan to non-501(c)3() communities (an example is Alpha's newest loan of \$175,000 which has interest payments of about \$1500). This is potentially a large volume of inflow and outflow. Paul: There's no significant risk. CESCI, if anything, is a liability. You could attract sizeable investments from communities and people wanting to support the movement while doing socially responsible investing. The questions are: Purpose. Scale. What resources are needed and available.

Agreed: At this time we will not make an offer to CESCI about taking over their board.

Dan has interest in dialoguing with CESCI. Caroline: Sally Snider at Alpha has some knowledge on this topic. Betty: recommends further discussion with A/C here. A higher level of participation.

Task: Betty talk with Drummond Pike with Tides Foundation about the mechanisms of moving money.

Paul: Do some surveying. You have a large constituency. Ask "What do you need money for and in what amounts? What kind of money do you have?" Hire a community loan fund to manage the money: use an existing entity to manage the bureaucracy and legalities. A fund needs at least \$3 million to operate independently. Geoph: Offering small loans is a valuable niche. CESCO was valuable to the movement. The Briarpatch had 200 small businesses, had only 2 failures.

Work on the questions over the summer? Caroline outlines two questions:

What to do with CESCO? Wait until we have our stuff together. We've already agreed to not pursue FIC take-over of their board.

Agreed: to explore being in a position to take on CESCO funds when the timing is right. Individuals may offer (on their own) to take up board positions at CESCO.

What do we want to do outside of CESCO on our own, pointed toward the gathering?

If individuals want to take on the topic of revolving loan funds, etc, they should be empowered to do so. The question is how FIC may provide financial services to movement. The topic was sent to A/C

Bylaws Change (Harvey):

This proposed bylaws change, submitted by Harvey, was circulated to board members in the mailing that was sent out a month before this meeting:

To promote cooperative human endeavors and community development, by providing technical and financial assistance (such as workshops, advisors, planning, training programs, grants, contributions, and loans) to groups developing cooperative options for living, working, and playing.

To act as trustee, custodian, recipient or agent for funds, assets, and/or land to be used to promote such cooperative human endeavors.

Is this wording as an amendment acceptable to IRS? Steps: We approve it, send a copy to Indiana, they send us a response. If affirmative, we send a letter to IRS requesting a "no effect" ruling. We are not legally in any jeopardy if we do not do any of the proposed activities prior to their decision. Indiana may be fairly quick; IRS says a ruling may require 100 days. There is a \$500-1000 fee if we want a definite ruling in advance of the filing process; otherwise it will cost about \$40.

These steps do not preclude us from doing any other form of loan fund. This bylaw change expands our current statement of educational purposes to include statements of what we want to DO to accomplish those purposes. Harvey will call Barbara to see if Indiana requirements necessitate more board consideration.

Agreed: To accept the proposed bylaws change, and to NOT ask the IRS for an advance ruling.

Task: Harvey will send a copy of this bylaws amendment to the State of Indiana, and if approved, he will request a "no effect" ruling from the IRS.

ICSA/CSA Conference: (Harvey) For the joint conference in New Harmony next October — the CSA's 20th anniversary — we are co-sponsors, but not involved in the planning/administration of the conference. We do have the responsibility of providing some panels and presentations in the contemporary track. Don Pitzer had asked us to name a panel topic and moderator by May 15th, but we were unable to meet that deadline. We might still be able to get it on the program. See Harvey if you have any suggestions.

Auction: Laird and Harvey have thought of soliciting auction items from communities to raise funds for CSA, and propose that we solicit for their auction in our next newsletter and they will solicit for our Celebration auction in their next newsletter.

Task: Harvey will create the copy for our newsletter to solicit items for the CSA auction, and he will see that the solicitation for our Celebration items goes into their newsletter or into their registration mailing.

FIC Relationship to Historic Sites: (Geoph) A question from Richard Kathmann: Is there a way for contemporary communitarians to relate to historical sites? What are the possibilities to take advantage of their historical programs that would be of interest to contemporary communitarians? [Set aside for discussion on Sunday.] Announcement: Mid Oct '94 CSA conference is at Oneida.

Board Meeting Sites:

FALL 93: (Betty) Starting Labor Day (Monday) Sept. 6,7,8. Five days after the celebration. Songaia Community (consider themselves a co-housing community) will be our host. They have a renovated barn with bunks and movable walls, indoor plumbing. Lots of space for camping. They will do cooking and food prep with one assistant per meal at \$10 per head. They have a large meeting place that they now rent for \$75 a day — because they set this rate after our preliminary talks, they are willing to make us a special deal. Half an hour north of downtown Seattle.

SPRING 94: (Laird) Sparrowhawk Village (in eastern Oklahoma) would like to have us. Opening negotiations at \$25 per head include three meals and lodging in private homes.

Padanaram ... perhaps some possibility yet on this one, though we would need to resolve the issues mentioned in Rachel Summerton's Feb '93 letter to Geoph.

SESSION FIVE • Friday Evening Discussion 8:00 PM — Geoph [F], Laird [R]

Topic: *What are communities doing in their local areas, and, what portion of this promotes a sense of sustainable community (not necessarily in the intentional sense)?*

Present: Betty, Arthur, Gordon, Corinne, Mary, Eddie, Tom, SYD, Ira, Coyote, Pacho, Chad, Loren, Deborah, Henry, Ben, Brian, Larry, Don.

Introductions: *Say your name and describe what you and/or your community do to promote sustainability in your local area.*

Geoph: shares with the communities he visits what he's learned from others, and occasionally challenges them to consider alternative approaches to whatever they do.

Larry: Ganas has businesses in Staten Island buying and selling used furniture and clothing. They also supervise court-ordered litter patrols, to improve the neighborhood.

Eddie: recently moved from Burlington (VT), a city, to Richmond, a town of 2,000, to find a smaller scale and slower pace of life. Still, he's searching for more community in his life.

Henry: lives at Sirius. We have celebrations that are open to the wider community. Some are creative alternatives to traditional holidays, such as "Interdependence Day," instead of "Independence Day."

Coyote: Sees herself as moist clay, very flexible in the ways she interacts with the wider community; helps out as she sees the need.

Loren: tries to limit his interaction with the craziness of New York City. He's somewhat surprised that the family of Ganas makes it possible for him to live in the city. Last year Ganas invested huge amounts of energy in producing a Saturday Fair, involving many local businesses.

Chad: co-led a men's gathering the previous weekend. Beyond the membership of Sirius, there is Hearthstone Village, a non-contiguous local area village.

SYD: living in a Seattle group household, which is a springboard for disseminating info about intentional community choices. Sometimes she hands out literature and sells community publications at local events. She also writes about community.

Tom: Green Pastures is a conference center, which Tom sends out press releases for. Tom is also on the Board of the state organic agriculture group.

Brian: He's a builder at Sirius, and often focused at home. He's gradually become more involved with the wider community through working outside and the various contacts developed by the community.

Joshua: lives near Boston, where he's active in the Green movement.

Robert: lives in Somerville, in a forming group called Common Unity. The members come from diverse spiritual backgrounds. In addition to working with these different traditions in the group, they've been active in homeless and AIDS efforts in the local community.

Ira: is a Girl Scout leader, a member of the local volunteer rescue squad, and also helps put on conferences. Now involved in forming a spin-off community of Twin Oaks, called Acorn, she sees the benefit of living long enough in one place to feel comfortable with one's neighbors.

Mary: is involved in cable access in her area in Vermont, publicizing local events like town meetings and school board sessions.

Pacho: tries to make eye contact and smile a lot.

Corinne: now living in the Washington DC area, while maintaining ties with Sirius. In DC she works a lot with the media, trying to develop positive images therein. Sirius gradually got into community-supported agriculture through reinforcement from neighbors.

Don: recently had an interesting interaction with local officials around their low-tax status as a not-for-profit. This worked out well because of an understanding official. Every Sunday they have an open house for all comers; it can be a strain at times, but accomplishes a great deal of outreach. They embrace the concept of devas in the garden work, and offer workshops about it. Some of the conference work includes geomancy and The Other Economic Summit.

Arthur: lives in Maine now, and has a background in community. He's taught a course in community at the University of Southern Maine. He's been responsible for getting FCE to do Community Building Workshops at the university. He's also instrumental in focusing local attention on sustainability issues.

Gordon: Sirius started shortly after the Jonestown disaster, and had a chance to engage locally right away with locals who were nervous about a community moving into the neighborhood. Over time, the relations with local businesses has deepened the level of trust, despite the value differences. Recently, more liberal and younger people having been moving into

the area, helping Sirius feel at home. Perhaps some of these have moved there because of Sirius. Gordon and Corinne have written a book called Spiritual Politics, which will be published by Ballantine next May.

Laird: Sandhill is a model of organic, sustainable agriculture, much of which is marketed locally. We provide occasional short-term help for neighbors, are involved in local 4-H, theater, and recycling efforts.

Betty: in her long-term association with Chinook Learning Center, she is now involved with the board of a Chinook-started Waldorf School. In behalf of the Celebration she has been asking for help from her neighbors on Whidbey Island to house the volunteers and other staff.

Ben: involved in putting on a local Alternative Fair, an annual event in Boulder. Timeweave, his community, tries hard to model appropriate living and sustainability. Many community members are actively involved in local affairs.

Caroline: in over 21 years in the Oregon Coast range, Alpha Farm has had a wealth of interactions with the local population. In Oregon, you only need to do two things to be acceptable: pay your taxes and work hard. This the community has always done. Despite their liberal views, their local relations have generally been quite positive. Over the past two decades nearly all the farms in their finger valley have turned over in ownership, resulting in a significantly more alternative-oriented population. Alpha has taken a definite, active stand on various land-use issues (ex: they oppose roadside spraying and most logging). Jim at Alpha publishes a local area newspaper, the Mapleton Saler, which gets enough advertising to support itself, despite Jim's rather liberal (outrageous?) editorials. Alpha has sent its kids to the public schools, and maintains an active involvement in school affairs.

Deborah: is a social worker by profession, and has been involved recently in a Catholic Worker soup kitchen.

Discussion: *What can we do, on a day-to-day level, to promote sustainability?*

Chad: we offer a good example of right livelihood. I did not come to Sirius to change the world; though I do want to set a good example.

Betty: Chad's view is an important factor. It's hard to measure one's impact (it's seldom that we get direct positive feedback). Even though the numbers of people actually living in intentional communities may be small, the potential for significant impact is definitely there.

Ben notes that although there's considerable interest in community in Boulder (a city of 100,000), there are also very high consumption levels. People are only starting to make the connection now.

Pacho: as a country we have mixed roots: sanctioned and sanctified genocide, side by side with holy visions and utopian experiments. At the same time, there is so much wrong and despairing, and so much that is good and hopeful. He notes how much that Quakers and their firmness of position have changed the direction of this country; he sees this as encouraging for what communities can do.

Larry: community offers significant promise for sustaining the quality of human interaction, in the face of deteriorating social fabric in the wide culture.

Ira: we need to think about leading the way with social change work, because we can afford to experiment — most people in this culture do not believe they can afford it. More, she sees that when one aims high, it raises the level of all one's activities, not just the most attractive ones.

Robert: living in community creates energy (or allows it to be better focused), which benefits everyone. It's infectious.

Arthur: people seem *very* hungry for community and for information about community, even beyond what we know. We need to be more visible.

Joshua: there's a role that communities play vis-a-vis the wider culture that may go unappreciated: there are more ex-members than current members; there are many "graduates." These people can be viewed as a resource, and allies in our social change work. Having left community does not mean a total rejection of community values or social agendas.

SYD: the goal is not just living in community; it is a means to more effective social change work and better lives. Community offers integrity and meaning.

Ben: an urge to belong to part of the tribe is deep in all of us. We ignore it at great risk. We are creating a new form of culture, and there's an exciting component of sustainability in this.

Arthur: communities cannot be independent from the wider culture, so we need to work with it now to be a factor for more sane directions.

Pacho: perhaps communities and utopian visionaries are a major reason why the culture today is not more messed up.

Caroline: we need to know who we are before we have something to say. People (and communities) can be in different places on this. And it's useful to keep in mind the positive impact that each can have by living more simply and appropriately. The political power of example.

Harvey: we have a blatant self-interest in promoting sustainability at the local level; the alternative isn't very attractive.

Robert: in thinking about "responsibility," do we have a "response" to the local community? Do we find social change work a rather grim endeavor? Why is that? Can't we enjoy ourselves more in this work?

Arthur: concerned about tendencies toward moral arrogance in our views about right livelihood.

Joshua: in relating to society as a whole, is letting one's light shine (the power of example) enough, given the need? It's probably safer to not engage more actively in social change work, but can we afford it?

Eddie: we will not convert 250,000,000 to living in community; yet communities dare to experiment, and that's courageous. There remains a challenge of translating the product of this experimentation into useful forms for the wider culture, but this should not daunt us from continuing the experimenting.

Ben: we do have a responsibility to act as fully as we are able; to hold a vibration of energy for change as clearly as we can.

Evaluation:

- energy went up at the end
- do we ever have discussions that are more free-form?
- nice to be able to breathe in the discussion, yet the energy was fairly low, despite an interesting topic.
- perhaps we could break up into smaller groups and then reconvene.
- perhaps we want a more conversational style.
- when the input was more personal, the energy rose.
- stimulating to see so much concern about community topics (from a new comer).
- enjoyed the slower tempo and facilitation style.

***** SATURDAY, MAY 29 *****

SESSION SIX • 9:00 AM Saturday — Harvey [F], Laird [R]

Celebration: (Betty)

Update: The idea for the Celebration first surfaced in the FIC at the fall Board meeting in 1988. Flyers for it were first circulated in late 1990, and we've had some volunteers that go back more than two years. There are three main purposes: 1) to provide information in a concentrated place for seekers and people interested in finding out about community; 2) to help communities make contact with each other and explore collaborative projects; and 3) to interface (via the media, especially) with the wider culture; use the Celebration as a "coming out" event for the solid contributions of the communities movement.

Staffing: At the High Wind Board meeting, three new people attended who wanted to work heavily on the Celebration: Ella, Annie, and Essie. We engaged all three at that time, while Betty planned to act as an overseer for the event, but not as a full-time Coordinator (she would be the FIC Administrator instead). In the first months of Celebration development, Annie and Essie wanted to create a more splashy, up-scale event, and felt hamstrung by the brakes that Betty placed on them in areas such as the selection of big-name speakers and the implementation of an advertising strategy. Without the backing of big name speakers and expensive advertising in major publications, Annie and Essie felt they had nothing to "sell" to potential sponsors. Consequently no sponsorship money was raised by the end of February. Even though there was not a direct link between sponsor income and their salary, it was impossible to continue paying them their full salary. Annie and Essie decided to resign. The conflict helped draw Betty into becoming more ready to take on the coordinating role.

Since March 1 Betty has officially assumed the role of Coordinator. Ella is her right-hand person at the Langley office, with help from Caroline and Ann Temple at Alpha.

Through NASCO, we have secured three summer interns to work at Langley, and one may possibly spend some time at Alpha. We are covering their Celebration expenses, providing room and board, travel expenses to and from the West Coast, but no salary. There is a temporary administration community (Betty, Ella, and the three interns) now forming at Betty's house. Geoph will be coming out in mid-June and Elph will come August 1st.

With the exception of Noel Brown, all the speakers and entertainers intend to be present for the whole gathering. We are paying travel for speakers, but no fees (with the possible exception of one person).

Capacity: The Evergreen State College has a 1,000-acre campus which we'll have essentially to ourselves during the week of our Celebration. Plenary sessions will be held in the gym, which could handle up to 3,000. We can house 250 tent campers, and 700 in dormitory spaces. We can handle another 200 on a daily basis, since workshop space can accommodate about 1,200 at one time. Vehicle camping is pretty much unlimited.

Geoph asks if there are fire marshall concerns about capacity. A: Not sure. Larry: what will we do when we reach the 1,200 max? A: this has not been worked out yet. Caroline speculates that at least another 500 can be accommodated without too much problem, but if we get up to 2,000 things will be quite squeezed. There is no certainty that the numbers won't exceed 2,000, so this remains a question to wrestle with. Perhaps we should have large tents on-call and back-up program in place.

We have already decided that this event will not be a Rainbow Gathering on the one hand, or a Hilton Hotel conference on the other. We are doing a dance between these extremes, and getting pressure from both sides to be more “their” way.

Medical: There will be a first-aid area at the site, but no doctor on call. Registrants do include some nurses and EMT people who are willing to lend a hand in case of need. In the case of serious emergencies, we have easy access to facilities in nearby Olympia.

Housing and food: We are passing the costs of room and board straight through from Evergreen to participants (\$100/five days for the dorm spaces); we make no money on this. The two food options will be cafeteria on campus (both vegetarian and meat options) @ \$85/five days, and a Seeds of Peace soup kitchen (mainly a vegan menu) @ \$25/five days.

Booths: Lisa Temple, formally an Alpha resident, is coordinating the booths. There are: 1) Educational booths (no products for sale) get an 8x10 space for \$50. We already have 10-15 signed up. 2) Commercial booths, with products for sale, have different rates for space, based on size of company, non-profit status, etc. 3) Eco-village demonstration site has booths outside, with a definite ecological flavor. Already committed is an earth wise general store.

Ira asks if we are keeping in mind groups or communities with little money who might be recontacted for filling in unused space at little or no cost. Yes, Lisa has been given flexibility to use her judgment in setting terms for space.

Daily Newspaper: We will publish a daily newspaper during the event, to help the flow of updated information. There will be six editions, one each day of the event. Betty reports that Peter Moulton (coordinator for the Bioregional Congresses and Green conferences) is a strong candidate to coordinate and Lance Scott is another possibility.

Children's Program. Betty's in contact with a man in Vancouver who has developed interactive software for kids to design earth friendly houses and communities. A volunteer wants to organize the older children into a RE-TEAM to coordinate recycling for the event: a "re-team", replete with "re-minders" and "re-wards." Someone else wants to help put on a children's theater event. There is also an array of recreational facilities on campus that will be available to all participants. There have not been many child registrations to date.

Pods or Circles: There will be affinity groups, each of about 15-20 people, which will become "family" for the duration of the event. These will meet at least once every day. It has not yet been decided whether these people will be assigned randomly, by interest, by diet, or what. These groups will handle work assignments together, possibly do recreational and artistic activities together.

Books and Memorabilia: Alpha will run the Celebration bookstore. There will be compensation to Alpha for staffing the store, and some cut for the Fellowship. We also intend to market memorabilia (mugs, t-shirts, bumper stickers, canvas tote bags, pens, etc.) We reconfirmed our prior decision to not buy plastic products. Harvey suggests (for greater utility after the event) to get canvas bags larger than 9"x 12" that would simply accommodate papers.

Art: This will be interwoven throughout the event, with ongoing mural projects, dancing, and live music. Ira suggests a Celebration Choir.

SESSION SEVEN • 11:00 AM Saturday — Harvey [F], Laird [R]

Celebration (continued...)

Native American: We are inviting Native American dance groups and drummers. A special opportunity arising in connection with the Celebration is that the Lummi Indian Nation (near Bellingham, WA) is planning to expand it's tribal Long House. It may be possible for people coming to our event to be part of a work team helping out right after the Celebration.

Tours: We are working with a company in New York that is offering a general sightseeing tour that will start in L.A. and end up at the Celebration; and another which starts from Seattle to tour around the Northwest after the Celebration. Joe Peterson is setting up a 5-day tour of intentional communities in the area — both historic and contemporary — just before the event. There may also be a white water rafting opportunity in the area.

Auction: Jay at East Wind is willing to solicit intentional community items and services to auction off, in exchange for a reduced fees for his attendance. Harvey and Laird will run the actual auction, to be held perhaps two or three times during the gathering.

Volunteers. SYD and Ella have been developing area volunteer meetings in Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, and Olympia. SYD will be the on-site Volunteer Coordinator. Many have stepped forward to help, though there remain openings for more. The basic deal for area volunteers who have been coming to meetings is that in exchange for a minimum of 20 hours, there is an extension of the early registration, low-end fee of \$125 for the whole deal.

Advertising: The biggest expense (\$1000) was for an *Utne Reader* reader response ad that has already generated 750 inquiries. It's too early to tell what registrations will result from this. Another significant initiative is a bulk mailing to a 5,000-name West Coast mailing list from the Noetic Science group. Other ads are now running in *Mother Jones* and the *Common Ground* magazines in Seattle, San Francisco, and Vancouver, and *New Age*. There will also be a classified ad in the next *Utne Reader*, *Whole Earth Review*, and *Rolling Stone*. Nothing yet has been done for radio or TV

advertising/promoting. A number of area press releases have been sent out. We appear in various periodical calendar sections. Ben suggests considering dissemination of additional press releases via fax/modem.

Task: Ben will talk further with Betty about this. Geoph observes that with all the publicity we've got out there, our big worry will probably be too many, not too few.

Budget. [see attachment] Although early budgets were created with a lot of faith and many guesstimates, the numbers *are* getting much firmer. To be conservative, the expense side of the budget is calculated at 1,000 people, while the income side is calculated at 700 participants. If we actually get 1,000, the income will look a lot better, with only a few increases in expense.

Harvey suggests that \$500 is *very* conservative for auction income. Betty says we have no idea of how many or what items we will be able to attract.

Audio Recordings: Decision on which contract to go for is deferred to A/C.

Airport Shuttle: It may be possible to have people volunteer their vehicle (and themselves as a driver) as one of the options for scholarship work exchange, thus eliminating or reducing one of our expenses.

Other Office Expenses: Betty wants to up Ella's salary from \$750/month to \$1,000/month. Betty wants to purchase another copying machine for the Langley office.

Agreed: on both proposals.

Daily Newspaper Finances: Do we want to charge for the daily newspaper? At 8 pages (16 sides, 8-1/2"x11") for all six days, on the cheapest paper, will cost an estimated 48¢ per copy, plus incidental overhead (folding, transportation from printer, etc.) Ira suggests asking for a sliding scale donation at the time of registration (say \$2-5) specifically for the newspaper, and then hand it out to all. Caroline argues strongly for making sure that all have access to the daily paper as an unparalleled method of disseminating crucial information. Ben suggests selling advertising to help defray costs. Some people speak in favor of asking for a donation, others prefer having this included in registration fees.

Agreed: we will do the daily paper. We will leave it up to the organizers to decide whether to charge and how. Perhaps this decision will be deferred until right before the event, when the financial picture becomes much clearer.

Registration & Scholarships: 252 are now registered, including all the freebees - speakers, board members, staff, etc. See list at the end of the budget for numbers registered at each financial level. Embedded in these figures are the various scholarship awards. It is difficult to determine the percentage scholarship awards because they have been at various amounts. We are not giving flat scholarship rates. We are trying to work with people's needs within pre-set limits on the approximate numbers we can have in each rate level.

SESSION EIGHT • 2:00 PM Saturday — Geoph [F], Elph [R]

Celebration, yet again...

Registration & Scholarships Revisited: (Betty) We are basically done handing out scholarships in the below \$125 and the \$125-200 range. If anyone wants to register for the Celebration now, during this meeting at Sirius, Betty will honor the rates that ended May 15.

We are now promoting four scholarship/incentive programs to assist people with their fees (and to help us raise funds). Anyone who raises \$900 can get all their fees covered — room, board, and registration. Raising \$500 will cover Soup kitchen and registration fees. There are also discount incentives for getting various numbers of people to register.

There are work scholarships still available that will bring fees down to between \$165 and \$245. We are hoping attendance will not be blocked by registration fees, but we have to be careful to meet expenses. We are now starting waiting lists for low-end scholarships, and as soon as we know more about registration income, we will be able to make decisions.

Celebration Schedule: (Caroline) [see Attachment C]

Task: Betty will ask if Olympia public access will do live coverage (and/or a video) of Noel Brown's presentation.

Caroline has been working on the logistics of the Workshops, and has walked the rooms to get an idea of where to put people. We can have 25 simultaneous workshops that would accommodate 762 participants. A few rooms will come out of that number for things like the bookstore, admin office, press, etc. Because some of the rooms are small, we may have to do some workshops twice. Large rooms hold about 80. We have some larger lecture spaces, but they're far less attractive. We want to keep things as cohesive as possible - all in the Library building. We have about 175 workshop periods over the course of the Celebration. There are five lecture halls, with space for 300, 150, 100, 75 and 75. One suggestion is to have simultaneous presentations from five or more different kinds of communities (ex: Kat from T.O., Stephen Gaskin from Farm, someone from the Emissaries, etc.) ... and we might need to do it twice so everyone could get a chance to hear the ones they are interested in. Ira voices a concern that when those interested in a community gather to hear a talk in these lecture halls, that some direction about recruitment opportunities be offered. Seekers should be told if the community is full or is seeking new members.

Betty wonders about video taping in the larger library rooms. Caroline says they are gloomy. Elph suggested that we get a halogen lamp from Target or K-Mart. Betty says the Theatre is unavailable in the evenings... perhaps days would be open? Caroline has a host of workshops lined up already. The list does not include panels nor indicate which will be done twice.

Brainstorming ideas for workshops, with substance:

Permaculture (David Jackie; Ira might be able to suggest someone on west coast)
Community Supported Agriculture (Ira can come up with a name on this one)
Gay and lesbian (Adam Burman; ask Ira)
Consensus building/facilitating...
Right Livelihood (David Schrom at Magic; ask Ben)
Architects, Geomancy (Ross Jennings (contact??); Sym Vanderin wrote Sustainable Communities (Ben); Union Acres and Don Kudihee in Greer, SC (Laird); Ken Norwood (Ben/Geoph); Henry Hammer from Twin Oaks (Ira); Plinny Fisk of Max Building Potentials into Indigenous Materials (Ben); various architects doing cohousing.)
Zoning and Building Codes (Twin Oaks/Acorn)
Cohousing, Puget Sound area (Betty)
Cooperative Business (Terry Mollner, ask Ben; Jenny Upton; Harvey)
Socially responsible investment (seems to be covered)
International...?
Sustainability involving Community
Community: Asset or Hindrance to Political Effectiveness (Corinne; Caroline)
Multicultural (Trish in Eugene; Ira)
Nuts and Bolts: Income sharing, Sewage, Half business/Half Community
Hyde Park Corner (soapbox in Red Square for speakers)
City and country alternatives, group in Vancouver (Caroline)
Amazing Diversity of Community
Grow and Split (Acorn, Shannon, Bruderhof)
Midwifery
Habitat for Humanity (we'd have to ask them — Ira)
Graphic Directory Demographics (Elph)
New Games/Rights of Passage (Howard and Sue Lamb, ask Betty)

Admin Nuts and Bolts: (Betty) Betty needs to hear from members of the board about what they need in terms of registration. (Are you coming? What are your choices about housing and food?)

Tithing Celebration Proceeds: (Betty) Betty would like us to consider tithing 1% of our registration income. She proposes that we tithe to the Lummi Indian Nation Long House repair and renovation project. [See attachment D.]

First, discussion centered on the concept of tithing. It's different if we're talking about tithing out of the auction proceeds vs. registration income. Harvey would like to tithe a larger portion of the profits than a smaller portion of our income. Several people feel good about tithing based on our net proceeds. Dan wants us to also recognize our internal tithing - board members paying for meeting travel, discounts on Directory sales, scholarships offered at the Celebration, the gratis work we provide to the rest of the alternative movement - like resource listings in the Directory, etc. Harvey mentions we cannot give money to just anyone unless they are a 501(c)(3). Betty assures us the amount is low enough and the nature of the funded project would not cause us a problem. Arthur suggests that we wait until we see the amount of our net before deciding "to whom and how much?". Laird feels we should mention that we are doing tithing, that this may help draw money in. Syd feels we should set aside 5% for something at the end.

Betty proposes we allocate \$1000, or 5% of our Net, whichever is larger, to the Lummi Indian Nation. Ira would feel more comfortable taking it from sure income such as the auction. Dan feels we should open it up to include donations (he pledges \$50 now).

Laird is comfortable setting aside 50% of the auction proceeds, though he is concerned with the suddenness and new ground we are breaking without protocol. Betty withdraws her proposal because she likes Ira's idea of setting aside the auction proceeds for an earmarked project. She'd perhaps like to see 100% of the auction. Harvey also feels uncomfortable with the speed and would like to see us split the proceeds between two very different projects. Dan says we may get stuck debating the protocol and end up not tithing to anyone. Likes the idea of tithing to two groups. Caroline sees no problem with our slotting some money for the people coming down to do the opening ceremony (the Lummi) and maybe a little more. Laird makes a new proposal:

Agreed: We will earmark 50% of the auction proceeds to the Lummi Long house, and leave the other 50% to be decided by A/C (it may go to the Long House as well).

[Betty passed out rate sheets for placing ads in the Celebration's printed program.]

Copy Machine (Betty) The current machine we are using belongs to Betty and is quite old. It needs to be hand fed and it groans. We have been overusing it. Having it reconditioned would be around \$350. Used, reconditioned machines (including enlarging and reduction function) go for \$700. We do not have the money in the general account at this time.

Agreed: We will take these funds from the Directory account. \$700 to \$1000. There is enthusiastic support for Betty and Laird working out the final details.

Overflow of Celebration Participants: If 2000 people or more show up, we will be stretched on all fronts. Caroline feels that it would be difficult, though possible, to blockade the campus. We would need to consult with local security. Betty says that Evergreen may cut off registration at 1500. Caroline feels there may be problems even if registration is cut off.

Loren suggests creating a premium registration period for the last few weeks. Robert thinks we may have invited problems by indicating that regular registration is open right up to the last day. Freddy suggests we buy a stamp to change the newly printed 5000 brochures to reflect this. We acknowledge that it will be difficult to make these changes because of the 15,000 registration forms already out.

Task: Betty will consider how this problem can be addressed.

SESSION NINE • 4:00 PM Saturday — Caroline [F], Harvey [R]

FIC Board Selection: (Geoph)

Agreed: We will let Don Pitzer automatically drop off the board.
Dan, Ira, Betty have their terms extended 3 more years.
Gordon will drop off as alternate, by his own request (per Ira).
Lois will stay on as alternate (she told Geoph she'd be happy to stay on).
SYD will stay on as an alternate (she declined nomination to full board).
Tom Starrs is moved to a full board position (recommended by A/C).
Pat Therrien dropped as an alternate.

Task: Laird and send notification/appreciation letters to Don and Pat. He will also encourage her continued participation, and attendance at the fall board meeting.

Betty: we need to do careful consideration of the board positions, more than we have in the past. We're way past the warm body stage. A/C prefers that board candidates first pass through the "alternate" stage.

Laird: anybody from Sirius like to be involved? **Tom:** How about Jenny or Barbara? **Dan:** We may exchange roles at some time, though Jenny has just become comfortable in her current role. **Chad:** Gordon or Corinne may be possibilities. **Dan:** Chad has put more into the meeting than any other Sirius person. There are heavy demands on name persons. Chad would be as likely a candidate as any other Sirius person. **Chad:** I'd like to get more involved; personal finances are a severe limitation. This kind of work is right down my path; I'm honored to have my name brought up in this context. [Chad's name is put on the list as possible alternate.] **Geoph:** Deborah Altus is involved with NASCO, CSA, and lives at Blue Moon Ranch. She's been very good about following through on projects she's taken on, and has done well with guest editing the next issue of Communities magazine.

Agreed: Deborah, Ben, and Chad are accepted as alternates.

Betty: I have strongly recommended Ella as a full board member. The reason she's not here now is that I wouldn't let her leave the office due to the ongoing flow of work for the Celebration. I would have to stand aside on having her as an alternate. Betty proposes Ella for full board membership. **Laird:** She has gone through a maturing process, though we (except Betty) have not been with her much. **Dan:** We have 7 men and 3 women on board, all gray-hairs except Elph. Having Ella in that position may be advantageous in working with Evergreen and the public. **Geoph:** would support her as full board member. **Betty:** having considered the issue allows me to let go of the need to stand aside. **Laird:** Ella's past in the movement has been with Seeds of Peace, which has a very confrontational style. Ella has been getting a feel for our style over the past six months; wouldn't hurt to let the relationship mature a bit more. **Elph:** May not be seeing all the angles; would be fine with it. **Dan:** what are her prospects for financing her board travel? **SYD:** Essential that she be some type of board member, full or alternate, for public representation purposes. **Caroline** asks if it would be acceptable to Laird if Ella is offered full board status.

Agreed: Ella will be offered a full board position.

Fundraising: [We agree not to take up fundraising, in depth, at this time.]

Task: A/C will thank FEC for giving us the "Friends Of Community" name. Betty will try to get a letter out to names on the FOC list in the Celebration newsletter, due out in July.

Mailing lists: (Betty): We have previous agreement to sell labels based on the Directory listings, as they are already public information. Lists we now have: FIC members, Magazine subscribers & sample copy requesters,

directory purchasers, inquirers about the Celebration, and registrants for the Celebration. After the Celebration the list of Registrants will be cleared for distribution.

Agreed: we will design all future forms to include a check-off option, so that every new name will be a permitted name unless they request otherwise.

Agreed: On our old lists, we will wait 3 months after sending out something that requires response. After that time, the name will be considered to be cleared.

Agreed: We will let A/C set the price for lists.

FIC Letterhead: (Betty) Do we want to continue to include all our addresses on our letterhead? Dan: We could remove newsletter address from letterhead, and I will continue to solicit home community material through the newsletter for inclusion. Laird: It would be reasonable to route all mail through Langley, though some inquiries would be delayed. Betty: will Laird continue to oversee the publications end of things?

Task: A/C will work out the details.

Land Bank: (Laird) Donna Berry has done some work and is continuing. Laird is continuing to be contact person.

Financing Primer: Bob Watzke is still working on this; Laird has not yet received a product.

I-Ching (Joshua): I cast the I-Ching for FIC with the help of 6 people here. The reading: “Decrease with changing line moving to youthful folly.”

***** SUNDAY, MAY 30 *****

SESSION TEN • 9:00 AM Sunday — SYD [F], Laird [R]

Board Expense Subsidies: (Harvey) Board expenses can be broken down into the following pieces (prices in parentheses are the estimated costs for that component at this meeting):

- 1) pre-meeting site costs (\$180)
- 2) post-meeting site costs (\$270)
- 3) main meeting site costs (\$450-550)
- 4) interim meeting site costs
- 5) A/C meeting travel
- 6) Board meeting travel

Travel costs per meeting vary widely for any individual meeting, yet this element tends to average out for all, over time. Harvey's proposal is to reimburse costs in the order listed above. The basic rationale for this order is that the A/C is asked to bear considerably more costs (all six of the above) than non-A/C Board members (only #3 and #6). Since we don't compensate A/C for time, it seems a dubious practice to ask them (or their communities) to carry a heavier financial burden by virtue of their greater involvement. This proposal intends that the costs of alternates and support people be included, as appropriate.

Even though we are talking about the possibility of paying pre- and post-meeting costs with dollars (if we can find them), it is not Harvey's intention to see barter opportunities eliminated, because of the enriching fellowship aspects with the host community.

Caroline suggests that the money could come from our general administrative account (which is basically fed by membership dues). We could also look at seeing our special accounts (publications and Celebration) as appropriately contributing some fraction of their value to the general account, because of overall administrative needs. She proposes that we pay, from this meeting forward, the first two items fully and half of the third. Tom supports this generally (while asking that it be reviewed in the near future), with a preference that we cover all of one, two, and four before number three, given that number three is the one component of the first four that is covered by the widest group.

Agreed: we will cover all of pre-meeting, post-meeting, and interim A/C meeting site costs (this does not include travel) from this point forward, and we will look at covering main meeting costs, plus travel costs, at the next Board meeting. It is the Board's intent to try to cover the main meeting costs as soon as it makes financial sense.

Betty requests that ongoing expenses (phone, postage, telephone, and the like) be turned in on a more regular basis, to improve control of the budget and understanding of trends.

Link between historic sites and contemporary communities: (Dan) Richard Kathmann (former CSA President) has asked us to consider a working relationship with the Oneida historic site to enhance the quality of their program and our exposure to the general public. Among other things, Oneida was an active networking community in its day, and authored a book on other groups contemporaneous with theirs. Oneida is willing to pay travel costs for bringing an FIC rep to Oneida to work with them on establishing this bridge.

Betty suggests this may be a good role for the Administrator; Harvey offers that the CSA rep may be most appropriate. (The humorous aspect of these non-selfless suggestions is much appreciated.) Geoph wonders what skills are most needed for this role, and suggests we select the person most suited to the task, rather than who might be most available.

Pacho is interested in helping out in this endeavor, as a non-Board member. There is definite enthusiasm for accepting this offer. Further discussion is tabled until we hear more fully from Pacho about film possibilities.

Ira: It would be nice to take advantage of sites like this for an annual gathering on communities. If it works here, it may be extended to other historic sites. SYD: Perhaps we should propose having a Board meeting there, to get more people involved in the activities there.

Brainstorm on possible uses of this offer:

- it may be interesting to have people from contemporary communities who employ modern equivalents of traditional tools and methods demonstrate these side-by-side with the traditional at Oneida.
- host gatherings and Board meetings.
- explore the parallels between the historic experience at Oneida (and other sites) and contemporary groups. Examples: look at the decision to shift away from a communal economy, or explore the dynamics and lessons of polyfidelity.
- synopses of these lessons could be displayed in pamphlets as well as programs at the site.
- possibly we could attract some contemporary communitarians to participate in Oneida programs by offering free room and board for their assistance. This works with the general reality that most community members are resource rich and cash poor.
- setting up the Institute (Dale McCuiston's dream) at one of the historic sites.
- perhaps an FIC team should be sent to Oneida to set this up; not just one person, given the wide open nature of the possibilities and the possible importance as a seminal example of collaboration between contemporary communities and historic sites.

Task: Further refinement of this is deferred to the A/C for task assignment.

Future Board meetings and Board retreat after the Celebration: (Betty) The working proposal was for the Celebration Aug 26-31, Board retreat Sept. 2-3, A/C Board meeting prep Sept 4-5, and Board meeting Sept 6-8. Another suggestion is to reduce the pre-meeting by one day and increase the full Board meeting to four days, so that much of the pre-digestion of the Board agenda can happen in full session.

Tom has already purchased an airplane ticket, and his schedule does not allow for the retreat between the Celebration and the Board meeting, as proposed. There is uncertainty how much time it will take to accomplish final clean-up after the event. Betty notes that while it's possible we could wrap this up by Tuesday night, we can't count on it. Tom asked that we make every effort to reach our retreat site by Tuesday evening. If we allowed Wednesday as an R&R day, perhaps we could move right into a 4-day full Board meeting (Sept 2-5), with no pre-meeting A/C work.

Why have the retreat before the Board meeting? In addition to a break, some on the A/C are viewing the retreat as a special opportunity to do strategic planning, taking advantage of the stimulation and opportunities arising from the Celebration to do our best and fullest work. The regular Board meeting would immediately follow, providing time to focus on implementation.

Dan, Elph, Tom, and Ira all spoke for a condensed schedule that doesn't ask for as much time away from home. Geoph is concerned that shortening the A/C pre-meeting time will cost us in full Board time, and is a mistake. Dan acknowledged that the advance work is valuable and streamlines the full Board meetings.

Ira wonders if time at the Celebration could be set aside for doing Board prep work. Harvey opined that condensed schedules put a terrible squeeze on the A/C, and this has not worked well in the past. Caroline is very dubious about her ability to set aside her Celebration responsibilities during the event to take time to work on A/C pre-meeting tasks. She's willing though, to try again — to have only one day for A/C and see how it goes.

Another suggestion is to keep a three-day Board session, yet still have one day for A/C pre-meeting agenda work (which is less than two, but more than none).

Agreed: we will go with holding the full Board meeting right after the Celebration if Songaia can give us new dates, with the understanding that the Board meeting will have more of a planning than a business focus. Proposed dates are A/C in a fishbowl Sept 2, with the full Board meeting Sept 3-5. A/C will accept a heavier implementation load following the Board meeting, using the time we've already blocked out for being together.

Future sites: Ira expresses interest in not accepting any place as a host that is more than \$15/day, for room and board total. Sparrow Hawk's initial offer of \$25/day will need to come down for this to work as a host site.

Possible sites for spring '94 include Padanaram, Sunrise Ranch, East Wind, and Sparrow Hawk. Possible sites for fall '94 include Twin Oaks, Oneida, Koinonia, and Ganas.

Task: Dan will place in the newsletter a solicitation for future host sites for Board meetings, along with a sketch of what we are looking for in terms of space needs, acceptable cost range, and technical support.

Task: A/C will assign follow-up on site possibilities.

SESSION ELEVEN • 11:00 AM Sunday — Caroline [F]; Laird [R]

Future video: (Eddie) He and Mary are interested in doing a PBS-quality video series on intentional communities, on the theme of resource and ecological consciousness. They are trying to create a positive, hopeful message, about less-consumptive lifestyles. They are in touch with Mort Achbar in Montreal (who recently released a critically acclaimed film on Noam Chomsky that was five years in the making) who also has interest in doing video on community. Because of his credibility, Mort's interest enhances funding possibilities. They are not looking at this as a quick project; it will likely take years. They are hoping to create a short pilot now that can be used for fundraising, and are hoping for a budget in the \$1 million range. Things may not move quickly enough for them to be involved at the Celebration.

Eddie's aware of concerns within the movement about having a reasonably balanced perspective in the final product. He hopes to find a good balance between the concerns of the communities being filmed and the "objective" interests of the journalist/producers. He's asking for help in identifying potential funders.

Larry asks what editorial review would be available to communities that have been filmed. Eddie is supportive of having some of this, yet cautious about how much is appropriate to extend. Harvey speculates that communities will likely want the chance to opt out if they are unhappy with the portrayal.

Pacho reports that with Ganas, he allowed any individual who felt wrongly portrayed in the raw footage to ask that it be deleted from the project. He stressed that this option was made available only at the raw footage (or "rushes") stage, which still left open the question of how fair the editing is.

Dan points out that journalists have no monopoly on objectivity, or even any special claim to it. Geoph suggests that Eddie's work could be used as a chance to move industry standards more toward effecting positive social change, and away from sensationalism. Laird: the FIC has been interested in a good community overview video for some time and expects to get to this project post-Celebration. It would be great to collaborate with one or more interested filmmakers, yet we do not intend to substantially deviate from our message in order to suit the interests of a filmmaker.

Betty has concern about an underlying tone of competition in earlier discussions with Eddie, and that he's likely to miss a main part of the message with that approach; communities are about cooperation and coalition building, more than establishing control and limits.

Geoph suggests that Eddie ask communities to define their own dark side, or ways in which they fall short of their ideals. They're generally willing to acknowledge shortcomings, and are more likely to allow its portrayal if held in balance with the positive.

Pacho's Interests: His upbringing was in the Society of Friends, and he's lived at times in various communities, ranging from spiritual groups like Bruderhof, Reba Place, and Lama, to traditional villages in developing countries. He still hungers for community in his life.

He's visited Ganas in the past couple years and is fascinated by it. Starting last spring, he shot about 15 hours of tape with the intention of creating a pilot for a full-blown documentary. When he sent release forms down to them, with a copy of the raw footage, there was concern expressed that others in Pacho's team might have an axe to grind vis-a-vis Mildred and her role as leader. Pacho requested that Ganas send back to him a list of what the community considered usable footage. This list has not been received to date. There are tricky issues around asking people to "stand naked in front of a camera," and great sensitivity and trust is required to handle this well.

Loren reported that Ganas' experience with Pacho has caused the community to reflect on how it appears to others and has been a catalyst in the community's decision to change its portrayal of itself. They no longer, for example, say there is no leader; now they openly acknowledge Mildred's role in this regard.

Pacho's working on a film now (working title: "Along the Erie Canal") that explores the historic plethora of community activity in western New York. His premise is that there were two major religious experiments in the early days of the United States: Quakers, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The utopian experiments in upstate New York during the 19th century are outgrowths of these two seminal efforts.

Pacho offered to act as an adviser in any film work we want to do. Either in the specific context of the Celebration, or in any wider project. He's also willing to help navigate the shoals of control in any working relationship with a filmmaker. He's also interested in the possibility of filming the consensus process that is being developed and honed in intentional communities.

Betty is very enthusiastic about the prospect of a developing relationship with Pacho, though is uncertain how to best make use of his offer. Do we need a Film Committee? Ben, Dan, Geoph, are willing to serve on such a committee.

Task: Further consideration of this is referred to A/C.

Membership Committee: (Dan) Presents an overview of our membership history:

1987	6 members	—————
1988	13 members	6 renewals
1989	14 members	9 renewals
1990	16 members	10 renewals
1991	84 members	24 renewals
1992	80 members	45 renewals
1993	39 members	17 renewals

A total of 146 communities have been members at one time or another. Dan proposes that we engage in another level of membership solicitation, which is more intensive. In the past, our solicitations for renewals have been a tag-on with the newsletter, and have yet to come out in a timely fashion. Dan would like to see a separate, more polished membership solicitation. For this year, we have just sent out a renewal solicitation and it's too early for the results to appear in these numbers. Elph noted that the Celebration will likely be a boost to membership (and there should be a separate table for signing people/communities up for FIC membership at the event), and may relieve the need for a special mailing between now and then. With the names that surface at the Celebration we'll have a much stronger mailing list to work.

Agreed: normal solicitation for membership renewals should go out in October, with follow-up in February.

Tom suggests that memberships be tracked quarterly instead of annually, which would relieve the burden of handling all at once. This may help with the problem of getting the renewals out in a more timely way, and allow for a more personal touch in the requests. Further, he suggested that right before Christmas is not a good time to get a good response. Dan responded that the Membership Committee has resisted taking this approach in the past because of doubts about the administrative capability to do it.

Agreed: the Membership Committee will consider this input. Betty will join this committee, effective Nov. 1, 1993. Members currently are Dan, Harvey, Elph, and Dale McCuiston.

Loren suggests that FIC adopt a clearer graphic image (meaning more consistent use of the logo) and clearer addresses: too many at present; can they be consolidated to one?

Newsletter: (Dan) Winter '93 was mailed in May, although editorial review was complete in February! A disappointingly large gap. Dan is looking forward to learning desktop publishing himself, which will speed up the logistics, once he masters it. In addition to the logistical challenges, Dan recently experienced some morale problems around losing the administrative support of USI. Next issue is due out mid-July, to be focused on the upcoming Celebration. We are starting to get the pipeline full (finally) with newsletters from communities and other movement organizations, providing a steady supply of material for consideration.

Betty noted that she intends to put out a Celebration update newsletter in mid-June, though perhaps a smaller issue (six pages to Dan's ten). Perhaps these two could be combined into one piece. Because the mailing lists for these two are not the same, perhaps the Celebration piece should be an insert in the newsletter.

Task: Dan will see that all authors of articles accepted for the newsletter be sent a complimentary copy of the issue in which their article appears.

SESSION TWELVE • 2:00 PM Sunday — Laird [F]; Geoph [R]

Celebration Budget II: (Betty)

Agreed: \$800 added to pay Elph for working at the Langley office during August.

Agreed: The budget as presented is accepted [see Attachment B]. Betty has flexibility to shift things around within the budget, but will notify the Board if there need to be major shifts.

Task: Betty will try to send to the full Board a summary of the Celebration budget actuals around August 1.

Speakers Bureau: (Harvey) We have a list of about 35 presenters; have received only a few inquiries from people wanting the list. Harvey continues to work on improving the forms used for this.

Brochure & Logo: (Geoph) What we have now is dull; he proposes to make it a priority to revise it before the Celebration. It contains the right information but is not sufficiently inviting.

Caroline: make sure it has our logo on it. SYD: any concern about pursuing copyright of our logo? Ben: that would cost about \$500. Betty is not happy with the logo as is; she had to change it to solid black so it would read better in smaller sizes. She also is not excited by the visual impact of what we have, though finds it acceptable until something better surfaces.

Agreed: We will include the logo on all materials we produce between now and the Celebration, and we will not pursue a copyright for the logo at this time.

Task: the Logo Committee (Harvey, Ben, Geoph, and Betty) will work with the existing design to create appropriate adjustments for uses at various sizes. As the group is satisfied with the adjustments, they have authority to release them for use without further review. If needed, the A/C will act as back-up arbiter of design decisions.

Radio Talk Shows: (SYD, Geoph) SYD is just beginning to research a radio show called "Earth on the Air," which encourages groups to create their own 3-to-7-minute compositions. SYD is hoping to recruit volunteers to do interviews at the Celebration that can be used for this. There is little to no control over when a submission will be aired, even if accepted, so she is seeing this as general outreach, rather than as promotional for the Celebration.

Geoph reports that Tom Greco in Tucson has given him contact information about a radio journalist who is willing to do phone interviews with people living in intentional communities. The interviews would then be edited and made available through syndication to 50-80 public access radio stations throughout the country. Geoph would like to have the FIC pursue this. There is no action taken by the Fellowship at this time to pursue this as an organization.

Task: Geoph will approach communities about this opportunity, for follow up on an individual basis.

Loren suggests approaching Terry Gross in Philadelphia, who does the "Fresh Air" program for National Public Radio, about being interviewed about intentional communities for her program. Chad notes that it's desirable to get a copy of any tapes produced which promote community & archive them for our use whatever that may be in the future.

Media Spokespeople: This issue was raised in the context of the radio opportunities, and we discussed who has been designated as a spokesperson for the organization, and why. Up to now, only Laird has been designated as a general spokesperson with the media, with Betty approved to represent FIC on the topic of the Celebration.

Betty proposes that Geoph be approved as a general spokesperson in addition to Laird. Caroline pointed out that sometimes comments about the FIC are appropriate in the context of an interview about a different topic, and we need to allow latitude for Board members doing this. Perhaps it's appropriate to create general guidelines for how to do this well. Harvey concurred. Chad suggested that when any FIC person talks with the media, they make it clear they are answering as a individual, not for the organization, unless designated as an official spokesperson.

Dan notes that the decision to name Laird as spokesperson is several years old, and it's time to revisit it. He'd like to see Laird, Betty, Geoph, Caroline, and Harvey on the list. In addition, he'd like to see all other Board members be given a lesser license (to be defined) to speak for the organization in certain limited ways. Beyond that, he preferred that all others, expressly including alternate Board members, not speak for the organization at all, and try always to refer media requests to the designated contacts. Betty has reservations about Dan's proposal because Bill Land is not here and there was an issue that surfaced this past winter about his inappropriate use of the Fellowship's name in connection with the Midwest Communities Network he's trying to build. This situation is cause for her to re-look how we select Board members.

Ben suggests creating an approved script of acceptable statements about the Fellowship that anyone could feel free to use, referring all requests for expansion and additional information to the designated contacts. Caroline notes that there is more work that needs to be done on this, and she prefers that we go with the agreements in place until we can look at this matter more thoroughly, after the Celebration. Ira is concerned that the restrictive policy in place may prohibit much desirable publicity. For example, she sent out a bunch of press releases in promoting the T.O. communities conference which included general statements about the Fellowship. Do we want to stop that? She's concerned that worry about worst cases may needlessly stop much good work. Betty says that it's the follow-up after the distribution of publicity materials that we're most concerned with.

Agreed: To expand the list of designated media spokespersons to include Laird, Betty, Caroline, and Geoph.

Laid over: a fuller examination of the issues underlying the question of who is appropriate as an FIC spokesperson with the media. Hopefully this can be addressed at the fall Board meeting.

Helping Struggling Communities: (Coyote) Her sense is that there exists a wealth of resources in communities that is not easily accessible. She wonders if there could be an FIC-sponsored resource team that could travel among communities doing on-site analysis and training. She is also frustrated about finding a good way to apply her considerable energy for assisting communities and sharing her insights into group dynamics. She wondered if there could be a buddy system where community-minded people could work in concert for mutual moral support and reinforcement.

Caroline: the FIC is certainly interested in assisting communities, and this question surfaces in some form at nearly every Board meeting. We have already launched some initiatives, like CANBRIDGE, the revolving loan fund we are assuming from CESCO, and the Speakers Bureau. Unquestionably there is more to do, however, our plate is now full and additional development will have to be deferred until after the Celebration. Betty: we're in the infancy (or perhaps toddler) stage in our mission to help communities, and we aren't yet at the stage where we can place a team on the road, though it's a wonderful vision.

Coyote would like to contact communities about offering assistance as an official FIC emissary. Geoph feels that this is not an appropriate step at this point — our label might open some doors, but would be of no aid in addressing the problem of groups' receptivity to what she has to offer. He's been doing community networking for more than five years now, and does it wholly without any official title. SYD suggests that Coyote relate to us what she feels is needed at each place she visits, and we might be able to provide ideas/guidance about how best to offer assistance. On the basis of her interactions during this Board meeting, Dan questions Coyote's understanding of what's happening in a group, her ability to not get confused, and her capability of evoking a feeling of trust from those she's working with.

T-shirts: (Betty) We haven't been able to reach John Sisson, to finish work on the design we approved at the last Board meeting — though we're still trying. Ira reported that she has a good source for inexpensive all-cotton t-shirts in Charlottesville.

Task: Ira will see that this source info gets to Betty.

Calendars: (Betty) This project has been deferred until post-Celebration, when we have more time (we think) and a more solid financial footing.

Treasurer's Report Continued: (Elph) Betty thinks it will be more useful for forecasting if we look at trends in line items over at least a three-year span (as opposed to comparing only with the prior year, where there may be some aberration in a particular item). She requests that the information be displayed this way in the future.

There was discussion of how many copies of the summer newsletter should be printed, in light of our interest in making these available at the Celebration to promote FIC membership. Ben proposes combining as many of our intended summer publications as possible into one, and printing it on newsprint to save money. Laird & Harvey are dubious that much savings could be achieved because each publication has a different timing and a different audience: they can see little practical way to combine them. Ira thinks that the first issue of the daily paper should include all of those pieces that we want to get to the conference participants. For any items we'd want post-event, could print extras for that later use.

Task: Decisions on publications coordination, distribution, and quantities to print will be deferred to the Celebration Planning Team. This will specifically include decisions about whether to stuff newsletters in the registration packets, make them available as a grab item, or whether to print up a short FIC blurb in the first edition of the daily newspaper.

Agreed: a new line item for membership solicitation, set at \$500 for '93, is added to the budget.

We accept the revised '93 as follows:

		<u>1992 actual</u>	<u>1993 orig.</u>	<u>1993 actual</u>	<u>1993 revised</u>
<u>Income</u>					
memberships	\$4500	\$5750	\$1500	\$5000	
<u>Expenses</u>					
FIC newsletter	1500	1700	250	1700	
Pre/post Board site costs					1000
MCI mail	80	150	40	150	
Mailing labels	87	200		200	
Postage/misc office		74	100		100
Bank charges	40	85	40	50	
Bd mtg expenses-misc		260			200
501(c)(3) fees	405	50		100	
telephone	461	1200		300	
misc	30	200	200		
membership drive					<u>500</u>
Totals			\$4500		

Networking Report: (Late arrival) John Burke from SEADS of Truth (Maine) arrived and spoke briefly of their support for the Fellowship and interest in networking.

SESSION THIRTEEN • 4:30 PM Sunday — Laird [F]; Elph [R]

Book Projects: (Laird) Kat at Twin Oaks has just completed a final draft on her new book about Twin Oaks; she considers it done. He will be helping Kat in marketing the book, though not acting as a Fellowship agent. Geoph and Laird approached Scott Peck during January about writing a foreword for Kat's book, and were turned down. A brainstorm of others to approach: Ram Dass, Albert Gore, Corinne McLaughlin, Amitai Etzioni, Charles Durrett, Hazel Henderson, Helen Caldicott, Eileen Caddy.

It was reported that Caroline's book on consensus still needs finish editing, and it has been hard to find the time to get to this. Corinne and Gordon at Sirius have put together a 40-volume collection of video tapes, audio tapes, and print material on community, which they are now beginning to market.

CSA questionnaire at the Celebration: (Harvey) is still working with Michael Cummings on drafting and managing the questionnaire he is creating for the gathering.

Community Definitions/Descriptions: (Dan) reported that the latest descriptions of the term "intentional community" appear in the current issue of the newsletter, and that he's pleased with how this has evolved. Dan is now comfortable with describing intentional communities as being generally residential, instead of always so. At this point he prefers to view the description and definitions as works in progress, rather than as something that will ever be completed.

Harvey likes the qualifier "generally" in the description, to avoid exclusionary hard edges. There is a lot of stretching possible with the concept of community, and it's our work to keep this in mind. Chad prefers to focus on the intention more than any residential aspect. It's his desire to support, on some level, any group with an intention to create community.

Evaluation: Pluses

- good space for the plenaries.
- impressive when presenters were organized and prepared.
- A/C carried out its preparation role well.
- full Board did its work so thoroughly that little was left to the A/C to mop up.
- Peggy (Sirius) and Jenny (FIC) did an excellent job of coordinating interface between FIC and host community.
- Thursday evening discussion with host community went very well.
- meals were excellent and ready on time.
- Board members were more relaxed and more accessible.
- there was a lot of high-quality one-on-one connections with the host community.
- liked the open door for new people.
- inspiring setting (both Sirius community land and W. Mass).
- there were enough computers.
- mealtime volunteer slots were filled quickly and reliably.
- mix of regular business with Celeb. planning worked well.

To be improved

- terrible on promptness.
- draining when presenters were scattered and ill-prepared.
- evening discussion could be more engaging and inspiring.
- more fresh fruits.
- more circles during and after sessions.
- more involvement with the full Board on underlying values and issues of our work.
- could improve our recognition of when an item is ready to be turned over to a committee or individual for further work.
- Coyote struggled with the lack of humanizing elements in our meetings. She would like more touching and hugging to create an environment that is more comfortable to her.
- could have used more natural insect repellent.
- keeping ourselves open to change in format would be good.
- provide better food for people with special dietary needs.
- more unstructured and non-compulsory group activities.

Task: Geoph will add "collecting information about dietary restrictions/preferences" to job description for Site Coordinator, and will work on creating an orientation packet for people new to our meetings.

Discussion: How to better involve full Board in examining underlying issues/values Laird: a lot of times these things are taken up in the pre- and after meetings of the A/C. While open, non-A/C Board members usually don't attend and they miss out on hearing and contributing in this way. Maybe it would help if we worked harder to identify when these underlying issues came up in full Board session, and decide then whether the Board prefers to make room in the agenda to discuss at the moment or bring up at a later time.

Geoph suggests that we focus only on the discussion during the session at which it comes up, and defer any decision-making to another session, perhaps even a lunch meeting. Laird cautioned that he had never seen a meal meeting carry the power of the discussion. It's difficult to focus on complex matters while eating (especially given that that is typically break time, when people want/need to do something non-cerebral). It may work OK for defining a specific task, though.

Caroline: as a process we could set aside open time later in the meetings so there would be a ready place to receive unexpected chunks of new, issue-oriented agenda. Geoph: in our orientation packet it might be nice to have a summary of past value discussions. Dan: we should write up a vision statement about the FIC "missionary" role. Ω