

**FELLOWSHIP FOR INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
APRIL 26-28, 1989**

Wednesday, April 26

SESSION I - Morning Facilitator: Laird, Minutes: Betty

Present: Laird Schaub (Sandhill Farm and Federation of Egalitarian Communities), Don Pitzer (Center for Communal Studies and National Historic Communal Societies Assoc.), Dan Questenberry (Shannon Farm), Harvey Baker (Dunmire Hollow), Betty Didcoct (Skysong and Turtle Island Earth Stewards), Geoph Kozeny (Community Catalyst Project), Anne Beck (East Wind), Allen Butcher (Twin Oaks, Community Educational Service Council, Inc., and School of Living), Kristin Dippy (Gesundheit), Piper Martin-Erick (Twin Oaks), Gordon Sproule (Twin Oaks), Helen Zipperlin (Camphill Village), Ceilee Sandhill (Sandhill Farm); late arrivals: Mark Satin (*New Options* Newsletter), Bill Land, Al Barberg (Stelle).

Functions we want to see in an FIC Headquarters

Discussion and brainstorm: What's important out of our brainstorm list: * = degree of importance for a first year start-up

- ** stable address
- * archive (clipping service for articles)
- ** accounting - collecting dues, and record keeping
- ** distribution of information about FIC, Directory sales
- * distribution of info about FIC members
- distribution of general info about communities (later)
- ** prompt response of inquiries, answering what staff is able to and routing rest
- clearinghouse for info (later)
- * maintain Directory info updates
- ** maintain mailing list
- ** maintain calendar of events (record keeping, not developing)
- planning for conferences, board mtgs (later)
- * neutral reputation among communities
- ** staff at site
- public phone number
- ** able to work well with FIC members
- newsletter
- membership development
- PR function (press releases)
- technical assistance
- funding source info
- marketing of Directory
- * bulk mail permit

How CCS could fulfill headquarter needs: Don Pitzer from Center for Communal Studies (CCS) in Indiana gave history of CCS and discussed

- CCS already does administrative functions for NHCSA (National Historic Communal Societies Assoc)
- Handling FIC administrative duties is problematic because of financing limitations and secretary, Mary Hayden may not be available for more time. Still, University of Southern Indiana (USI) has agreed to put in 50-50 matching funds up to \$1500. current
- Attractive to CCS because it expands the scope of NHCSA work.
- University will do free mailing labels and master mailing lists.
- Archival potential: CCS has decided to offer this to FIC, and at no cost. This offer does depend on any other FIC function happening at CCS. As archive, CCS would require material coming in would be possession of USI and available for research at the discretion of the archivist, though it would be possible to seal not that any

information for a set period of time (for example, until the year 2075) to protect sensitive material.
WEDNESDAY SESSION II - Early Afternoon Facilitator: Kristen , Minutes: Betty

The Board asked Don his view of CCS's ability to handle the Headquarter functions described above. Don gave the following response:

- Can offer stable address.
- Handling finances - dues and accounting - depends on level of financing, yet reasonably confident this is doable if budget is \$3,000.
- Can handle mailing lists and provide gummed labels.
- Calendar of activities is possible.
- Distribution of FIC info would not be difficult if money available for postage, phone, etc.
- expenses
 - \$2,000 would cover secretary salary for 1 day per week, remaining \$1,000 to office

- Could handle referrals for a speaker's bureau.
- Guess that baseline administrative work (including minimal handling of mail flow) would be doable with 8 hours of sec'y time every two weeks, and that current sec'y would likely be willing to expand work commitment at least that much.

-Current NHCSA staff sec'y (Mary) has good feel for administrative work in the communities field.

TASK: Don to confirm with Mary what additional time she is willing to work, with Laird responsible for getting the information and passing it along to Exec. Committee.

How can we build ties between the academic world and living communities?

-*America's Communal Utopias, the Developmental Process*, which Don has edited, will be out in about 1 yr. It is about historic communities. Don reported that another book, on contemporary communities, is a definite possibility in the near future. He speculated that it would likely outsell the historic book just being completed.

-People from living communities could do more speaking at universities. CCS will accept info about people willing to speak; Don encourages potential speakers to send bios.

-FIC could create a Speaker's Bureau, with a certain percentage of fees, exclusive of travel, donated back to FIC. (This item refined as a proposal in Session I, Friday.)

Don talked about "Developmental Communalism". In the past, historians have relied heavily on the criteria that communities are successful only if they last as a communal entity for a certain length of time. (For example, one prominent writer used the formula of 25 years = success. Under that test only a small fraction of historic communities could be deemed successful, and many well-known historic communities would be labeled failures.) Don wants to broaden the concept of what constitutes success to include the community's impact on society, recognizing that the vitality of the community's values and ideas may have no relation to how long the group community remained in a communal form. Don's thesis is that communalism is a generic social mechanism, which may suit an inspirational movement in one phase of its evolution, but not in another. Viewing communalism as a means, it is vital that a movement remain flexible regarding form and open to the possibility of abandoning communalism in favor of a more desirable format. It is Don's view that communalism is more commonly used in the early stages of a movement, and then adjusted, especially in the economic aspect.

Don left us with a set of questions which he'd like to see the Fellowship focus on: Who are we trying to network together? Why is the FIC unique? What is the nature of FIC? How do we relate to the New England Network of Light, or the Earth Communities Network? Should our headqtrs serve all these networks? In what sense is there an "intentional communities' movement", and what is the FIC relationship to it? How do we define "intentional community" and "communal"?

Don's definition of "movement" is "a more or less unified effort to achieve definable objectives through a relatively organized structure with leaders, programs, disciplines, and ideologies"; or, "an effort to achieve goals through leadership, programs, discipline, ideology, organization, commitment"; or, "an ideology and objectives expressed through leaders, programs, disciplines, , organizational structures, (i.e. activities, writings, publications, demonstrations, etc.)."

Helen Zipperlin asked the Board these questions:

How do we know when a community is healthy?

How does a healthy community take care of its vulnerable members?

What role can we play in helping vulnerable people? What is our experience in this?

What fosters a healthy community?

What do communities have to contribute to the art of Life Sharing?

Helen has funding from the state of Pennsylvania to develop the concept of *life sharing* and how vulnerable people can be appropriately safeguarded without resorting to bureaucratic housing regulations. Camphill Village has particular experience with mentally handicapped people. Camphill promotes the concept that all people have something to contribute to building a better world. How can the more vulnerable among our society be cared for and at the same time respected for the contributions they can make to everyone's lives? Because of governmental interest in de-institutionalizing mentally handicapped individuals, Helen is particularly concerned with the difficulties of the group home concept which was substituted for the state-managed institutions. Now working on the concept of life sharing, she's asking especially for input from the community movement on what we've discovered about caring for and honoring the more vulnerable among us. Helen sees a great deal of potential in using a form of peer review (that is, asking for feedback from peers, as opposed to "experts"). Intercommunity use of the Catholic concept of "visitations" can be a valuable tool, helping each other understand how we can improve our lives.

Discussion about what is the Fellowship's primary mission? How, if at all, can we prioritize from among the following missions: 1) Help people seeking community, 2) Promote inter-community communication, 3) Publicize community successes and their relevance to community at large?

We did not come to any consensus about a particular next step, recognizing this discussion will be ongoing. Publicity and public relations role tended to get more support for immediate attention than building our internal connections and communications. Putting out the Directory begins to address the issue of serving those seeking community.

WEDNESDAY SESSION III - Late Afternoon Facilitator: Harvey, Minutes: Betty

Board Resignations: to facilitate the establishment of a quorum, Bob Watzke and Rita Tarkinow submitted resignations, by letter. With these resignations, the Board size is reduced to 10, with 6 needed for a quorum.

Approval of Minutes:

Decision: Minutes will be posted as soon as possible after each session — so people can review at their convenience, and note any suggested changes. For any substantive changes, individuals are expected to raise their concerns in session, as soon as they are aware of them.

National Conference: Discussion brought out the following points:

-immediate need is to finish the Directory; yet holding a vision for a conference is valuable for later down the line.

-possibility of co-sponsoring or at least having a presence at other conferences (Dandelion, East Wind, Padanaram). Question was raised here about the

appropriateness of an FIC presence, given that the Dandelion and East Wind conferences (to be held this fall) are focusing on their own recruitment needs?
-scope of what we talked about last Board meeting is too far ahead of our abilities. Might be better right now to look at a smaller, regional gatherings.
-funding potential from foundations is greater if it has media potential (big name speakers, etc.)
-use Directory to ask for feedback on what communities and individuals want at a communities conference?

Decision: to table this discussion until next meeting. We can always put an insert into the Directory if we come up with something more concrete at a later time.

Foundation for Community Encouragement - Scott Peck's group

They have developed an apparently successful business offering Community Building Workshops across the country. These are 2-day or 3-day workshops where groups of around 30 strangers get together and group leaders try to guide the group into developing a sense of community. FCE apparently does not offer workshop attendees any further steps in how to experience community in a more regular way. What are ways we can interface with them to do some follow-up with people who are then buzzing about community; certainly we could offer suggestions for another level of experience. They might be a good group for marketing Directories. Can we get their mailing list?

TASK: Harvey will try to make personal contact with them.

FIC Brochure

Suggested additions and changes: Directory advertised, highlight further information sources, put dated material (board names) as an insert, shorten history, put on legal size for more space, needs graphics, what services do we offer, emphasize purposes and services, condense descriptions of affiliated organizations, cut list of board members, list community members, shorten sentence on front. Mention of the Speaker's Bureau should be made in the new flyer.

What is the intended audience? Other communarians, community seekers? Do we need different brochures for these two groups?

TASK: Laird will see if Sandhill draft of FIC logo is still around.

TASK: Allen and Dan will write something about FIC for the Directory.

Thursday, April 27

SESSION I - Morning Facilitator: Betty, Minutes: Geoph

Present: Allen Butcher, Anne Beck, Helen Zipperlin, Harvey Baker, Dan Questenberry, Caroline Estes (Alpha Farm), Al Barberg, Mark Satin, Geoph Kozeny, Corrine LeBovit (Shannon Farm), Laird Schaub, Ceilee Sandhill, Betty Didcock. **A Quorum is Present.**

Check-ins (A Go-Round)

FIC/CPC Co-Publishing Agreement

Since our last meeting, Laird has been working with co-publisher Charles Betterton to reach agreement based on document we approved last board meeting. Charles has signed that agreement with following alterations:

-point 5 further clarification on decision making authority of Management team
-point 7 now specifies that subscription revenues are excluded from profit calculations for Directory, although FIC work in generating new subscriptions will be a factor in determining fair profit distribution.

-point 8 allows flexibility in setting the profit distribution, allowing us to see who actually does what. Yet the fall-back distribution will be 50-50 split.

Interim developments: Dan has had a conversation with Charles in which Charles agreed to specify, out of CPC's share of net profits, the payment of the \$600 loan made by the FIC to CPC; \$1000 loan payment to CESC (part of their \$4000 loan) and to

have the Directories physically stored & distributed through Sandhill who would handle collections and bookkeeping. Charles feels it would be inappropriate to retire all past CPC debts out of Directory proceeds if that would undermine CPC's ability to produce future issues.

Decision: To create an addendum to the agreement: That \$2000 of loan payments to CESCO will come out of gross receipts (after production costs and Directory loans are repaid), and that repayment of the \$600 FIC loan to CPC will come off the top of CPC's share of the net.

Decision: To accept the Co-Publishing agreement that has been signed, provided the addendum is also executed. Any negotiated changes must be cleared through the Executive Committee. It is understood that the net income split is subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

After discussion about FIC considering the possibility of doing a Directory on its own, there was agreement that as we are so near the end of this project, it is not an appropriate time to back out of the agreement.

Laird is planning a trip to Stelle within the next month, to gather loose ends and to complete the financial negotiations.

Directory Financial Guidelines: Laird requested input to help direct his negotiations with Charles. Books will be physically stored at Sandhill and Laird is planning to monitor the cash flow by releasing books only as accounting is provided. He is experiencing some tension regarding his negotiator role; the more we specify Charles' role, the less flexibility Laird has to negotiate and build the trust base necessary to do the project.

Decision: the FIC's negotiator be responsible for setting up details for an auditable accounting system at Stelle. This system will include Sandhill and Stelle exchanging monthly statements, and having both sets of books audited, at FIC expense, at the end of 1989 and yearly for long as the co-publishing relationship exists.

Decision: The Board reaffirmed its support of Laird's role as liaison with Charles, and noted appreciation for the work he has been performing in this role.

FIC's Future Relationship with Communities Magazine: Board interest was expressed for future FIC support of *Communities* magazine (or some similar publication). We will slate this item for our fall '89 agenda.

Directory Progress Report: The work team (Laird & Elke from Sandhill, Anne from East Wind, and Geoph of Community Catalyst Project)

- Projection that the Directory will be available Aug 1st.
- The solicitations for the Resources section are just now getting mailed out
- We have a lot of articles in hand, some still promised. Help is needed to do editing.
- Still working with old financial projections. \$20,000-\$30,000 net (which doesn't include repayment of old debts). Gross receipts- 75% in first 2 yrs... maybe half of that in the first few months. May be able to pay off most of production costs by end of this year, but no proceeds available to support other work until next year. Need another \$8-10k in hand before production
- Money raised and loans promised will be held & managed by Sandhill [primarily ad payments and other receipts] and CESCO [primarily funds raised for printing costs].
- Another factor: Harbin Hot Springs has bought out the New Age Community Guidebook, and will have an updated version available by the end of this May.

Directory Editing: Laird, Geoph, Betty, and Jim (Alpha) are committed to editing, but more help is needed. Please contact Sandhill to volunteer, or with leads to likely prospects.

Evaluation of FIC's Directory Process: Do people feel their concerns are being adequately handled through the process we've been using with our designated negotiator (Laird) working through the Executive Committee and any agreements with CPC requiring their approval? It is the sense of the Board that it is appropriate for FIC board members to talk with Charles as informal situations arise, and ask whatever questions are relevant — however, it is essential to defer negotiations to Laird.

Federation Concerns: The Federation of Egalitarian Communities raised some concerns about the screening process used to determine which groups are to be included in the Directory. Laird presented a statement [see attachments] from the FEC Assembly (not a policy... it is being circulated for comment among their member communities) regarding FEC involvement with and support of non-Federation projects. The Board expressed support for the values presented in the statement, but there was strong reluctance to advocate any particular screening process.

TASK: Caroline & Jim (also of Alpha) will prepare a paper on the topic of screening and exclusivity and mail it to Dan for additional input. Dan will check back with them, and distribute it to board members before the fall meeting.

THURSDAY SESSION II - Early Afternoon Facilitator: Laird , Minutes: Geoph

FIC Revenue Generation:

-**Ongoing Directory** could be used as a source of funding for the FIC's general revenues. Caroline pointed out that any plan to use production of directories for income would be heavily affected by whether or not the FIC continues as a co-publisher or otherwise as a financial backer of *Communities*. Discussion tabled until the fall meeting.

-**Dues Increase:** Proposal submitted by Geoph. General feeling that these dues are too high, not affordable to many groups; we don't have enough product to justify dues that high.

Decision - Membership dues: These dues will go into effect on January 1, 1990.

- \$15 Individuals
- \$15 Communities & Organizations with 1-9 members
- \$25 Communities & Organizations with 10-49 members
- \$40 Communities & Organizations 50+ members

TASK: Exec. Committee will consider bringing to the fall Board meeting a proposal on prorating dues for new members.

Proposed Bylaws Changes: (Proposal submitted 2/89 by Geoph)

Discussion about size of FIC Board: Larger board membership tends to encourage more input and participation. On the other hand, more board members also increases travel expenses. We need to consider more balanced representation by region, gender, color, other cultures, etc.

Bylaw Revision (Decision): That we expand the Board size to 15 members, and 3 Alternates.

Alternates are encouraged to attend all Board meetings, though their presence does not count toward the quorum requirement unless they are elevated to full Board status, either on a temporary or term basis.

Bylaw Revision (Proposed for fall meeting, to modify decision above): Increase the number of Alternates from 3 to 6.

Bylaw Revision (Decision): If a Board member misses two consecutive meetings, or falls more than 6 months behind in dues payments, they automatically forfeit their seat on the Board, and the next Alternate in line will automatically be elevated to full Board membership (for the rest of the forfeited term).

Bylaw Revision (Proposed for fall meeting, to replace decision immediately above): If a Board member misses three consecutive meetings, or falls in arrears in dues payments for more than three months after notification, they automatically forfeit their seat on the board, and the next Alternate in line will automatically be elevated to full Board Membership (for the rest of the forfeited

term). *Exception:* The Board may, at its discretion, act to continue the term of the Board Member.

Bylaw Revision (Proposed for fall meeting): If unable to attend, a Board member will request that an Alternate Board member be temporarily elevated to act in his/her place.

Bylaw Revision (Proposed for fall meeting): Board members shall serve staggered terms of 3 years, with 5 seats becoming vacant every year.

Task: Caroline will review the current bylaws, and prepare a bylaw amendment proposal for the fall board meeting which incorporates 1) definition of Alternate Board Member, 2) how they are selected, 3) length of their term.

Task: The Secretary will circulate a copy of the revised bylaws to all members.

THURSDAY SESSION III - Late Afternoon Facilitator: Allen, Minutes: Betty

Next meeting site and dates: We have a strong possibility of being able to use the facilities at New Harmony, with the possibility of donated space. We have also checked dates of other community events (Pandanoram conference, and annual meeting of Community Service in Yellow Springs, etc.) We may also check High Wind in Wisc. Don is willing to investigate New Harmony possibility. We expect to select dates in late October, early November.

TASK: Laird and Betty will find site and set date for next meeting and let us know. Laird will check with Don about New Harmony and let us know by June 1.

TASK: Geoph and Betty will investigate possible sites on West Coast for spring, 1990 meeting.

Board positions: There are 3 vacancies from expiring terms at this meeting, 6 continuing positions and 3 early resignations for this meeting. Together with the bylaw change (which created three additional Board seats), there are nine positions to fill. The Board status at the beginning of this deliberation was as follows:

-Current Board members (with terms expiring next spring): Betty Didcoct, Bob Brown, Caroline Estes, Dan Questenberry, David Thatcher, Harvey Baker.

-Current Alternate members: Arun Toke, Geoph Kozeny, Joe Peterson

-Ex-officio members - Laird as Sec'y and Faith as Treas.

Decision: Elevate Arun, Geoph, and Joe to full Board and add Don Pitzer, Al Barberg, Suzanne Riordan, Laird, and Faith (conditional upon her acceptance to serve).

Decision: Select as Alternates (with priority of elevation to be in the order listed): Rita Tarkinow, Bob Watzke, and Bill Land; with Allen Butcher and Anne Beck to be added in the fall, conditional upon the Board adopting at that time the recommended bylaw change expanding the Alternate roster from 3 to 6. Faith will be offered an Alternate slot if she does not want to be a full Board member. (**NOTE:** Faith subsequently declined to be a full Board member, but agreed to be named an Alternate if there are open slots in the fall.)

TASK: Caroline will try to find potential women FIC Board members in the Ananda community and get them to attend the Midwest meeting in the fall.

Decision: Setting a goal of 3 additional women candidates for the Board at the spring, 1990 Board meeting.

TASK: Everyone will encourage more women to participate in the fall Board meeting.

While the FIC selects individuals to fill Board positions, not organizations, we recommend asking CCS to officially (and financially) support Don Pitzer's representation on our Board.

TASK: Laird will write to CCS board asking for their support of Don's role as FIC Board member.

Redevision of Board responsibilities: clarifying two functions: membership development and membership maintenance.

Decision: Add to job description of Treasurer: being on Membership Committee, doing billing for the dues, and maintaining the membership list (rather than Secretary).

Selection of Executive Committee:

Reviewed responsibilities of Exec. Comm. (at least 3 members required)

- creation of agendas for meetings (including selection of facilitators)
- coordinate invitations to board meetings
- overseeing task completion between meetings
- give "State of Fellowship" presentation at Board mtgs
- send copy of all correspondence to Sec'y

Decision: Board selects an Executive Committee, specifying who is Sec'y and Treas. Then Exec. Committee will select a Pres. and a Vice Pres. (to meet legal requirements). Laird will be the Secretary, with Geoph and Betty assisting in recording. Faith is the Treasurer, with assistance from Dan. The new Executive Committee will be Laird, Dan, Caroline and Betty (Dan is not available for organizing the 2 next meetings).

Membership Committee: (Subcommittee of Finance Committee) This committee will maintain a current membership roster and develop new members) Dan, Harvey, Geoph will serve on this.

TASK: Membership Committee will create a written job description for itself, to be presented at the fall Board meeting. Also, the committee will consider whether to continue requesting profiles from Fellowship members and have a proposal regarding this at the fall meeting.

How often should Board meet? Sense of the Board is to keep the number of meetings at two per year. We need to strive much more for Board members to stay for the entire meeting time. It is difficult when the cast of characters change over the days of the meetings. It is helpful to generate relevant side trips before and after the business meetings and during the evenings. Suggestion: Before Board elections, a Board nominee should make a commitment for meeting attendance and that ability to attend is given significant weight in selections. We need to address the issue of finding travel assistance for Board members as soon as we can.

Discussion of ways to support our work: If anyone needs a conduit for contributed money to attend FIC meetings, money can be channelled through TIES, School of Living or CESCL.

Friday, April 28

SESSION I - Morning Facilitator: Caroline, Minutes: Geoph

Present: Laird Schaub, Caroline Estes, Al Barberg, Dan Questenberry, Mark Satin, Betty Didcoct, Geoph Kozeny, Ann Beck, Allen Butcher, Ceilee Sandhill, Jim & Maria Frid (Emissaries of Divine Light, based in Chevy Chase MD); [**Quorum Present**] Late arrivals: Bill Land.

School of Living — History & Philosophy: Dan shared his overview. Special points: 1) just putting land into a trust doesn't protect it from resale, and probably shouldn't (School of Living has sold some land; Shannon might want to sell & relocate if a nuclear plant moved in next door); 2) when sale does happen, can't necessarily avoid speculation (law requires the Board to protect the financial interest of the non-profit, and to not give a windfall discount to any individual); 3) need to understand what it means to have use rights (a secure, long-term lease) vs. "ownership" of land. Dan has prepared a paper on this topic, and will be happy to mail it to anyone who expresses an interest. Send \$1 to cover copying & postage costs to: Dan Questenberry, Shannon Farm, Route 2, Box 343, Afton, VA 22920.

Community Center Proposal: Laird summarized a proposal circulated by the Foundation for Feedback Learning (Staten Island, NY). This is a reworked proposal, which was originally circulated about two years ago. FFL now may have two members who are willing to direct this project, and the community is willing to underwrite costs of the Center for at least a start up period. FFL expects the Center to carry itself financially. Laird reports that FFL has a very stable history, and seems capable of operating a "neutral" center.

TASK: Laird will try to visit FFL in the fall, and will be in correspondence with them about what support and information they would like from us. He will keep the rest of us posted on his findings.

Connection with Native American Societies: Several tribes in Oregon have recently been reestablished on traditional tribal land. Several FIC communities have been involved with Native Americans (including the Emissaries, and Alpha thru their Bioregional work).

TASK: Dan will contact Suzanne (who has more background & experience in this area) and ask if she would prepare & circulate information on this topic for consideration at the fall meeting.

Speaker's Bureau **Decision:** The Fellowship will create a Speaker's Bureau which will connect people looking for lecturers or speakers with those among our membership who are willing to travel and

speaking about aspects of community. Where connections for speaking engagements are made through the bureau, lecturers will be expected to donate back to the Fellowship a minimum of 20% of their fee beyond travel and lodging expenses, with a larger donation encouraged, up to the entire amount. 1st priority for funds received by the Fellowship in this way will be to supplement the budget for Headquarter expenses.

Mention of the Speaker's Bureau should be made in the new brochure, in the description of the Fellowship prepared for the Directory, and in any other Fellowship literature. In addition, we should place an ad for the Speaker's Bureau in the new Directory.

TASK: The Secretary will send a letter to the FIC membership soliciting the names of people willing to lecture, along with any limitations or preferences on the topics they are prepared to speak on, or places to which they are willing to travel. With the responses to this solicitation, the Secretary will create a Speaker's Bureau referral list. In the future, it is the Fellowship's intention to have Headquarter's staff maintain the list and manage the flow of lecture requests. Until such time as the Headquarters is able to handle this, the Secretary will perform this function.

TASK: The Membership Committee is expected to include the solicitation letter (which the Secretary will prepare, per the above paragraph) inviting participation in the Speaker's Bureau in its package of materials sent to new Fellowship members.

International Communities Networking: Allen briefly reviewed the evolution and background of NHCSA, the International Communes Desk at Kibbutz Artzi, the ICSA (International Communal Studies Assoc.), and the International Communes Network in Europe. Excepting the ICN, there has been more of a focus on historic and academic issues, rather than contemporary and practical; though the trend now is for more focus on contemporary groups.

Between '79-'85 annual festivals of the International Communes Network were held in Europe. The ICN has been inactive since '85, and it is unclear whether this organization will be revitalized. Allen reported that the (British) Communes Network is putting together a directory of intentional communities for Great Britain. Allen wondered what role the FIC might play in their revitalization and suggested the FIC might become a North American affiliate with these networks.

Next ICSA conference will be held near Toronto in July, '91. Allen proposed that FIC try to get a large representation at this next gathering, and to ask the conference organizers to schedule a slot on each day's agenda to focus on contemporary communities. We should consider scheduling a conference or Board meeting in conjunction with this gathering. Laird suggested that the FIC establish a committee to oversee/facilitate FIC support/participation in these events, including arrangements for presentors. This was deferred to the working sessions later today.

Allen has a paper (submitted to the Directory) on the history of International Networking. A short version is available through him for \$1 (to cover copying & postage) from Allen Butcher, Twin Oaks, Route 4, Box 169, Louisa, VA 23093. Also available for \$1 is an address list of approximately 100 communities located outside of North America.

Gathering/Distributing FIC Experience: Laird and others have expressed interest in gathering information related to creating/sustaining communities. The Federation is presently developing a "Systems & Structures" package. One hope is that a really valuable book or topical pamphlets would emerge from this work. This also ties into developing tracks at conferences. This issue was referred to afternoon work session to brainstorm for relevant topics. Perhaps use Directory to solicit input/ feedback on specific topics.

School of Living — Headquarters and/or Conduit: Allen, Dan, and Mel Leasure (Common Ground) are all on the SoL Board, and comprise their newly-formed Intentional Community Committee. There has been an informal invitation to consider using SoL as the FIC headquarters. They have a staff person, Ginny Green, who is interested in taking on the extra work of acting as Headquarters staff.

Discussion: Hdqtrs at CCS or SoL? SoL is a land trust rather than a state university. With SoL the staff is of unknown quality, yet salary is lower. Volunteer support is easier and resources stay more within community movement; CCS offers more stability, professional staff, and might possibly be a more neutral site within the movement. Probably better potential for broadening outreach through CCS, yet also potential for losing control to state institution.

Center for Communal Studies as FIC Archives

Decision: That the Center for Communal Studies be designated as the official Fellowship archives. As such, the Secretary will be expected to regularly (at least yearly) send copies of suitable Fellowship correspondence and other written material to the Center.

TASK: The Membership Committee will write a letter to member communities, encouraging that they consider the Center for their archive as well. Also include this letter in the package of materials sent to new organizational members.

Center for Communal Studies as FIC Headquarters

Decision: That the Fellowship designate the Center for Communal Studies as its continental headquarters contingent upon the \$200 in hand from Shannon Farm be matched by \$200 from the

Center and that this total amount is deemed sufficient funds to insure, at a minimum, that all Fellowship inquiries are promptly forwarded to a designated FIC Board member. Duties beyond forwarding inquiries will be added to Headquarter staff responsibilities as, in the view of the Executive Comm., there are sufficient funds to cover the expense of such functions, and such a move seems appropriate.

TASK: The Executive Committee will send a letter to Fellowship members announcing the selection of CCS as FIC Headquarters. This letter will describe the money already received or pledged for Headquarter expenses, the immediate need for additional funds, and the opportunity for matching funds from the Center. .

TASK: If necessary funds not available, ask the School of Living to do functions we are not able to cover at CCS. Executive Committee was assigned the task of fund-raising (in conjunction with the membership drive) to raise the additional \$1,300 necessary to fully match USI offer.

Decision: to ask Univ of Southern Indiana for statement of investment policy and practice.

TASK: Exec. Comm. will write and send this letter.

Feedback from Mark Satin -This is a time of deep searching in this country. (popularity of Scott Peck, Utne Reader, topics dealt with in mainstream publications). The larger society is hungry for new voices. It is a time to have the voice of communities heard. Is FIC emerging as potential for that voice?

Observations: process - we are very good at playing close attention to what is being said and to the emotional content. Consensus working well in this group, even at the down time. On level of content: discussion about brochure - need professional help to do a really good one - possibly use direct mail expertise to produce a cover letter and card insert. Discussion suffered because democracy became more important than expertise. (consider using direct mail consultant in Arlington, VA who lived in community - Elaine Zablocki) CPC and Charles discussion - we are being taken to cleaners in trying to accomodate him. He has legal responsibility to fulfill subscriber obligations of a low-energy magazine. Again, are we selling ourselves short by placing more emphasis on building bridges to him than on maintaining the interests of our organization and the movement as a whole? In the interest of being nice, we are forgetting the larger purposes we are here for. If our goal is to bring communities together to create a larger voice, we need a tighter requirement for board attendance: one out of three meetings is not enough. Why isn't anyone on board from key communities - for example, High Wind, Meadowcreek, Sirius? Why tie our address to a university at the very moment the society is looking for innovative new ideas? May be important to strengthen our image of innovation rather than fulfill our personal needs for legitimacy.

FRIDAY SESSION II - Early Afternoon Facilitator: Caroline Minutes: Betty
Additional attendance: Mel & Lois Leasure (Common Ground)

Working session: meeting of the whole on the topic:

"How can we give voice to what the Communities Movement has to share to the broader society"

- pamphlets on various topics
- use directory for solicitation of articles on various topics
- coordinate with FEC, CCP, SOL, TIES, CCS, NHCSA. ICSA etc
- coordinate with printing capabilities NHCSA, etc.
- round robin writing
- teams around topics
- do videos re community, on various topics
- video meetings
- slide shows
- inform media of meetings, conferences, encourage their attendance
- calendar, get into publications
- write articles magazines
- write community life stories, esp. those who have experience major changes
- offer lecturers to university classes
- target articles in places which can stimulate further connection (articles re children in community in *Mothering*)
- include potential consultants at end of articles
- press releases
- workshops (internal and external) especially at religious group conferences
- manual for communities
- follow-up, repetition, personal contacts
- TV - situation comedy
- TV documentaries
- consult with potential movie "Ecotopia" scriptwriter
- create stories and fiction

Discussion on articles for pamphlets or book

-what articles do we already have in hand: incorporation options, SOL History, Consensus, Decision Making, International Assoc. Home schooling (Bill)

-other potential articles: Leadership (Betty, Geoph, Bill) Ritual (Betty, *In Context*, Howard and Sue Lamb) Architecture/design (Allen), Relationships (UV), Ecology /permaculture, land holding/tenure, adult educ., interfacing with mainstream, membership retention and turnover, marketing, networking

TASK: All the information in this discussion is referred to the Exec. Comm. for further action.

FRIDAY SESSION III - Late Afternoon Facilitator: Geoph, Minutes: Betty
(Treasurer's report moved to evening session of Exec. Committee after Faith arrives)

Reports from working sessions:

Interface with International Communal Studies Assoc., NHCSA, Pacific Coast Chapter of NHCSA

-request of ICSCA, NHCSA, PCSA conference organizers to offer a track (caucus) time for contemporary communities in their conference fliers

-ask them to share with us the addresses of contemporary communities who respond to their mailings - we would ask for people out of that list to organize this track

-FIC could establish the content of the contemp. commun. track and seek those who would fill the agenda for them to publicize

-ask for financial assistance of consessionary fees for conference attendance by communitarians when necessary

Suggestion: we establish a committee who finds time lines and themes for upcoming conferences and map out content of potential tracks and give them lists of people for their promotional literature to be sent. Committee would solicit papers to be sent in and people to be a part of panels.

Suggestion: we include info about these groups and their conferences in the Directory and include information in mailings to FIC memberships. Mention of the Speaker's Bureau should be made in the Directory. In addition, we should place an ad for the Speaker's Bureau in the new Directory.

TASK: Membership committee will establish a subcommittee including Caroline, Allen, and Dan to deal with these suggestions.

Decision: Caroline, Betty and Laird would be a committee to create a Facilitation Service, place an advertisement in Directory - facilitation, consensus training etc. Address will be Alpha. We will ask that 20% of fees beyond travel costs be donated back to FIC. Work on criteria for who would be accepted as trainers. We will also work with a group emerging from Coroline's trainings to establish a facilitation guild which will undertake training and rating of facilitators.

501c3: We have made no progress on making application for 501c3 status. We agreed to table this issue until we have more information available to make a decision. There are 3 organizations (CESCI, SOL, TIES) who can channel funds for us when necessary, and one other possibility (the Tides Foundation).

TASK: Executive committee will look into where Directory funds will be placed and what sort of obligations we have for federal and State of Illinois filing.

Reconsidering FIC Headquarters:

Decision: Address for FIC will be CCS, Evansville, IN 47712

We will not use the University's name.

We want to work with SOL to explore ways we can work together on projects (ie. finding stewards for vacant trust land, producing pamphlets, inquiries for info on intentional communities)

We need a national referral center where inquiries about communities can go. In the meantime, inquiries that anyone does not have the info to handle can go to Laird.

CESCI's proposal to loan funds only to FIC member communities

We have concerns that we would be gaining members whose primary intent was access to CESCO funds. We want members who are in FIC because of our value and efforts. The Board declined to make any recommendation on this proposal.

David Thatcher's input from Jim re CPC agreement:

David's concern is that *Communities* magazine carry its own weight. If the magazine were to be turned over to FIC, it should come over with debt cleared. Also wanted to know if CPC has entertained possibility of filing for bankruptcy. (That is an issue for the management of mag.)

Other concerns: We will not print directory before contract finalized.

Review of Task assignments

Entire meeting evaluation:

- more work be done by Exec. Committee to think out some of the agenda items prior to meeting and make proposals. Business meeting time could be cut and leave more time for discussion on philosophical issues.
- how can we get all the Board here for all the days? VERY ESSENTIAL
- develop a core of facilitators (who have taken Caroline's course ?) to run our meetings
- those interested in facilitation like to have opportunity to practice here
- having minutes available immediately is GREAT
- we can improve our pre-meeting preparation for agenda items
(ie. need treas report in hand, more written proposals)
- good emphasis on action and products in our work
- frustrating to have such a slow start
- task list had a few names many times. Need to engage more active board members.
- level of dedication and commitment was an inspiration
- frustration at our lack of promptness
- need better magic marker
- Geoph will do a visual wall chart of all abbreviations we use
- amount of host work very evident
- level of constructive criticism good
- site accommodation, food lodging good
- impressed with our high listening ability and acceptance of everyone here -need to contact each board member and remind them of their commitment to be here, in future make attendance a requirement for board membership
- Mark's critique a high point of meeting - gave us valuable perspective and perked us up

(Evaluations Continue...)

Evaluations of the Overall Meeting *(Continued)*

- Exec comm. arrange agenda to business as efficiently as possible and at least two blocks of time be set aside for deep and broad consideration. We did not pay close enough attention to content items.
- Exec. committee MUST hound us all to make sure we prepare before meeting (give written proposals etc)
- encourage exec. committee to be more active. Make more use of phone.
- great to be able to plug into groups and activities of surrounding groups
- impressed with our sense of mission

Appreciations:

- the full-time role Geoph has had in knitting us together and high value of having his slide show and computer available.
- Shannon recognizes how our presence has broadened their awareness of what is happening in the movement
- FIC values staying in host communities as it helps broaden our connections and we have first hand experience of our various alternative ways for doing things
- deep appreciation of hospitality offered to us
- big thanks to Dan for all the pre-meeting preparation.
- special thanks to Nancy & Jenny (of Shannon) for the wonderful food

Board members at the Potluck Dinner on Friday evening...