

Saturday, May 23, 1987
Fellowship For Intentional Community
Initial Board Meeting
Held at Stelle Community, Stelle, Ill.

The meeting convened at 3:10 pm. Allan Butcher and Charles Betterton co-chaired the meeting and Faith Morgan took minutes.

1. Attendance: Allan Butcher, Charles Betterton, John Ewbank, Faith Morgan, Don Hollister, Bob Brown, Rick Lathrop, Rita Tarkinow, Pat Dolan, Ed Olson, Tom Welsh, Suzanne Riordan, Laird Schaub, Dan Christenberry, Dave Thatcher, Robert (Bob) Watzke, Toni Wozniak and Herb Goldstein.
2. Meeting Procedure and Decision Making Process: We agreed to use the consensus process. However, if after a second call for consensus, agreement has still not been reached, a vote will be called, with a 2/3 rule and one vote per board member.
3. Board of Directors: There was some discussion concerning who could serve on the board of Directors. The general feeling was that to be on the board of Directors one did not have to be living in an intentional community, but could be a representative from networks of communities, individual communities or just be an interested individual.

Dan Christenberry, Charles Betterton, Allen Butcher, Al Barburg, David Thatcher, Laird Schaub, Bob Brown, Robert Watzke and Toni Wozniak were accepted as the board of Directors. Actual terms are discussed in the attached bylaws.
4. Executive Committee: Dan Christenberry, Allen Butcher, Charles Betterton and Bob Brown were elected to serve on the executive committee.
5. Officers were Chosen: Dan Christenberry, President; Charles Betterton, Vice President; Faith Morgan, Treasure; and Laird Schaub, Secretary.
6. Membership: We agreed that all organizations, networks communities and individuals who previously showed an interest and those who are interested and are in attendance at this meeting, comprise the membership.

Allan Butcher has been requested by the School of Living to be their representative to the FIC.

7. Letterhead: It was agreed that we shall put on the FIC letterhead only those individuals or groups who are actively involved with FIC.

8. Incorporation: Incorporation of The Fellowship for Intentional Communities was completed on November 13, 1986. The FIC's registered agent is Charles Betterton and the registered office is; 105 Sun Street, Steile, Il. 60919. (note: this is a change from 37 years of being called The Fellowship of Intentional Communities)

9. Tax Status: Considerable discussion ensued over whether to seek 501 (c)(3) or 501 (c)(6) status for the FIC. There was some feeling that the tax exempt status would be a duplication of other community groups, such as The School of Living and CESCi. Others, such as Laird Schaub, did not think we would qualify and so did not want to put energy into trying to get it.

It was suggested that we function for one year as if we are tax exempt, then try for the 501 (c)(3) status.

This was agreed upon and a committee of Dan Christenberry, Charles Betterton, and Robert watzke was established to investigate obtaining a 501 (c)(3) status, with Herb Goldstein and Tom Welsh as consultants.

The executive committee was empowered to make the final decision.

10. Bylaws: We decided to read through the bylaws and make whatever changes were needed (see attached Bylaws). This was completed by 6:00 pm.

All Bylaws changes were agreed upon, with Laird Schaub agreeing to not block the general consensus to include proxy voting in Article VII, section D.

10. The Meeting closed at 7:10 pm. We agreed to reconvene over breakfast at 9:00 the next morning to talk about program development, dues, travel budget, promotion and visiting other communities.

All communities involved are encouraged to hold parties and pot lucks together.

p.s. I just talked to Dan Christenberry, he says the Board meeting planed for September 26-27 may be changed to September 12 and 13 so that the Society of Emissaries can attend. f.m.

Fellowship for Intentional Community Minutes
Sunday, May 24, 1987

The following people were present for all or part of the 9:00 a.m. meeting:

Ed Olson	Laird Schaub
Tom Welsh	Rita Tarkinow
Bob Brown	Bob Watzke
Dan Christenberry	Rick Lathrop
Faith Morgan	Toni Wozniak
Charles Betterton	David Thatcher
Allen Butcher	Suzanne Riordan

After determining that a quorum of five or more of the nine Board members were present, the Board considered a bylaws change.

There was consensus agreement to strike from Article VI, Paragraph D of the bylaws the phrase, "which are Fellowship members" from the last sentence.

There was consensus agreement to add Rita Tarkinow, Suzanne Riordan, and Ed Olson to the Fellowship Board, bringing the number of Board members to twelve.

It was agreed to set the terms of office for the following six Board members at one year:

Charles Betterton	Laird Schaub
David Thatcher	Allen Butcher
Bob Brown	Dan Christenberry

There was a question raised about a possible requirement that a minimum percentage of income be derived from member dues or fees, and donations if an organization has 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. It was directed that the committee created to investigate IRS status specifically look at this possibility.

A brainstorm about possible Fellowship activities produced the following list:

1) Celebrations. Bob Brown suggested FIC sponsored or supported parties or get-togethers as often as once a month, with different communities around the continent taking turns hosting. It was mentioned that notice of such events could be placed in Communities if there were sufficient lead time.

2) Public Relations and Outreach. With the involvement of Charles and Ed the FIC already has access to Communities magazine. We could put out our own directory (or one in conjunction with the magazine). Also, we could focus regular attention on media coverage and the creation of audio/visual descriptive materials. We could also organize community tours for interested, cash-paying customers.

3) Recruitment. We could play a role in matching up communities with interested prospective members. One possibility is the creation and operation of a computer matching service, which is a project that people at Stelle have already done considerable preliminary work on. (This project is currently on hold for apparent lack of broad-based community support.)

4) Business Support. With our combined resources we could probably assist each other with both dollars and expert advice. Assets in this area already include the CESCOI loan fund and the School of Living fund for helping to establish land trusts.

5) Education and Resource Center. We could provide a central location for storage and access of written materials (and perhaps visual materials also) about our communities. This could serve both a research/archive function and as an up-to-date, comprehensive compendium of what's going on currently. At present both NHCSA and Stelle are collecting archive materials about intentional communities.

Another part of this could be a regularly updated survey of what expertise we have among us. This information about skills would be accessible for members, to help solve each other's problems.

Toni suggested focusing energy and resources on a particular (highly visible) demonstration project which would highlight cooperative values.

Alternatively, Tom suggested focusing first on inreach projects, or services to members as an aid in selling participation to potential members. Hopefully familiarity and trust could be generated through cooperation on projects, which could build on itself as the organization took on increasingly ambitious projects.

Laird suggested applying a resource (both dollars and personal time and energy) test to each of the proposed Fellowship activities. After developing a list of reasonable projects for the early going, we could use that list as a basis to solicit for more membership.

There was consensus to direct the Executive Committee to develop a promotional brochure describing the Fellowship, together with the scope of its intended activities, aimed at both communities and individuals.

Tom urged that the services listed in this initial brochure be limited to those already existing among our membership, to avoid creating expectations that may not be met.

As an early strategy for growth, Tom recommended soliciting participation in such a way as to engender a sense of belonging. He advised welcoming new individuals and communities by asking for their input in setting the Fellowship's agenda.

Bob Brown brought up again his suggestion of an FIC-sponsored party every month. David picked up on this, suggesting that the parties could have a particular theme, built around a strength or special feature of the host community. Dan mentioned that Shannon Farm will be hosting a "mortgage burning" party July 25-26, and everyone's invited.

Rick wondered if Communities could act as a clearinghouse for FIC party information. There was discussion of the long lead time necessary for getting anything included in the magazine, to which Ed replied that a brief notice could be added almost right up the last minute before printing.

On the possibility of including last-minute inserts in the magazine, Ed explained that postal regulations prohibited this. At the same time, however, Ed revealed that FIC could use the Stelle Foundation's 3rd class mailing permit for non-profit organizations, which would allow one-ounce pieces of mail to go out for under 7 cents each.

Ed further announced that he and Charles, through their work with Communities and the Stelle Foundation, had developed a mailing list for FIC that included 800 domestic names and 600 foreign.

Allen accepted the task of writing an article for Communities about the Fellowship, based on the events of this weekend.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the following policy be adopted regarding membership fees:

For individuals a \$10 minimum donation is suggested.

For communities and organizations a \$20 minimum donation is suggested.

There was a discussion of the concept of a single position on the Board being shared by more than one person, especially if the people sharing were from a single group or community. In particular, David and Rick requested that they be allowed to share a single Board seat, with the thought that between the two of them it would be more likely that the Emissary's would be represented at any particular Board meeting.

This was tentatively approved, in light of the perceived advantages of more room for other communities or organizations to be represented, enhanced flexibility for reaching quorum, and concern about the manageability of decision-making as the number of people on the Board grows.

It was reported that approximately \$1,100 is currently available to the Fellowship: \$900 remaining from the original CESCO grant of \$2,000, and \$200 donated by Shannon Farm from its outreach budget.

Dan recommended that the Board brainstorm a list of communities and organizations that be targeted for an initial recruitment effort. There appeared to be some interest in this, however, it was not done.

David liked the idea of recruiting on a person-to-person basis, as opposed to a shotgun, mass-mailing approach. It was suggested that a quantity of brochures (once available) be supplied to each Board member for this purpose.

Rick advocated a conservative, slow approach to Fellowship development. He was concerned with overreaching as a consequence of our early enthusiasm. There seemed to be general agreement with this sentiment.

Allen asked about the possibility of adopting a Fellowship logo, to facilitate public recognition. Bob Brown immediately suggested that our logo feature a teddy bear. Rick, however, cautioned that we postpone any action on a logo until the organization had some time to mature and define itself better. This advice was accepted.

Possible sites and dates for the next Board meeting were discussed. At Dan's urging, Laird volunteered to explore the possibility of hosting a fall meeting at either Sandhill Farm or its sister Federation community East Wind, both in Missouri. At the same time, Rick agreed to look into the chances of hosting the meeting at Oakwood Farm in Indiana, or Edgewater House in Louisiana, both Emissary locations. There was agreement to aim for a two-day session, the weekend of September 26-27, if at all possible. As Secretary, Laird will notify the Board of the site and dates once the matter has been settled.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of Board Meeting of May 24, 1987, reconvened at 12:00 P.M.

Those present for this meeting were:

Rick Lathrop	Toni Wozniak
Al Barberg	Rita Tarkinow
Bob Brown	David Thatcher
Bob Watzke	Laird Schaub
Dan Christenberry	Tom Welsh
Ed Olson	

P.6

Dan raised a concern about giving the impression of "packing" the Board if there were multiple positions occupied by representatives of the same community or organization. David, however, felt that this concern was probably not serious; that in general new members of an organization did not expect Board representation immediately upon joining.

In the end, the question of rules allowing shared positions on the Board was given over to the Executive Board for refinement. In addition, the Executive Board was asked to make a recommendation about whether any adjustment was appropriate in the list of Board members assigned one-year terms during the previous morning session.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:00 p.m.