

Social Justice Action Committee 10/7/14

Attending: Wendy Smith, Jackie Fischer, Peter Rousmaniere, Akankha Perkins, Anne Marinello (late arrival).

Meeting began 5/30 PM

**Continuing business:**

**Food Shelf:** Wendy to manage the North Chapel awareness about the Food Shelf. On Thanksgiving we will have what we did before, to help with Thanksgiving dinner. Wendy to ask the Food Shelf what is needed to provide one meal, with and without meat. We then ask the congregation to provide cash on November 9. Wendy will also promote through InTouch and the program.

Anne was going to talk with Daniel. She is not here to report.

**Short Term housing:** Joanie was not reporting. We should not rely on Joanie and put this on back burner.

**Distribution hub.** Discussion. Peter's research found viable programs of sub-state entities in Florida, Texas, and California. Lack of response by Lauren leads Peter to recommend that we drop the idea, which was agreed to.

**Climate Change:** Jackie reported. She was in NYC. Since 9/21. 25 people on the Green, about 15 Woodstockers in NYC we have been meeting on Wednesdays at North Chapel, with the pizza oven and continuing the momentum....one march is not going to solve. Very open-ended discussions, which Linda Galvao has reported in writing. Jill Davies, Anne Macksoud could say something in Joys and Concerns. Example of an idea: Woodstock being carbon neutral by 2020. Jackie interested in the community working together, across all groups. The group is trying to define a goal.

October 16 meeting: meeting to talk about solarizing housing, at ArtisTree.

Jackie: if there is social pressure to solarize, to may be easier to influence building owners. Solarizing is not separate from clean electricity. Sustainable Woodstock is a partner – it has some staff resources.

Wendy: "Solarize the Upper Valley Campaign."

Jackie: Climate change, what does this have to do with social justice? This should not just be for people with means. How can we serve the entire community? The interesting part is there is energy involved in this. We have to overcome classism.

**Affordable housing:** there is a new name, Westview Meadow. Peter: what can we do to make known our involvement? Akankha: write an article in the Quest.

Jackie: Social Justice emerges arises out of our consciousness, an explicit value system around equality. More of a lens than a project. We can go through all of our programs by shedding the layers of things we cannot talk about, by supporting and bringing into the light. More of a lens through which to look at the world and the community. The whole thing about climate change, a lot of people can't participate because they live in an apartment or can't afford a Prius. It is not going to do a project but [an opportunity to] to see.

Anne Marinello: We are running out of hardwood trees.

Jackie: we feel so scattered and ineffective, because the issues are so huge. We are using our lens. We are looking at our individual lenses. Anne: maybe a vision statement of the committee using the lens. Like looking at our community and the world, to address inequality recognizing and then addressing. We raise our consciousness of inequality, unequal access, in our community, from the local to the universal.

Anne: it's how we take care of people, we need to be thinking about how to help.

Meeting ended 6:30 PM

Submitted to the planning committee on 10/9/14:

Statement on vision of North Chapel from SJA Committee Oct 2014

### **DRAFT**

The North Chapel's engagement with community, near and far, emerges primarily from our commitment to equality among all people. Collectively, we share a lens. Through this lens, we see the persistence of economic and social inequality. As individuals, we are sensitive to our personal lens, which can both blind us to and illuminate injustice. We undertake collective initiatives in the name of social justice. In some initiatives, we face challenges that threaten to scatter and deplete our energies. When this happens, we regain our strength by sharing the way we look at the world.