

**Minutes of the Maine NVC Network
Forum (Gathering of Community) Meeting
April 22, 2011**

Present: Eileen Liddy, Andrea Ferrante, Vicki Pollard, Lily Kapiloff, Pat Cannon, Betsy Terrell, Peggy Smith, Cynthia Handlen, Kristi Kirkham, and Howard Evans.

We opened with a check-in asking what was alive for us that brought us today to this Maine NVC Network meeting.

Agenda: We agreed to work with the agenda as presented and allotted time for each part.

Decision-making: We agreed to use the thumbs up, thumbs down, and thumbs sideways model as before. Sideways means “I can live with it” about a decision.

Network Structure: Pat presented the model, as represented in the two Venn diagrams, that the Steering Committee had worked out. We accepted this model as a work in progress and agreed to review it at the next Gathering of the Community. We affirmed that we sought a power-sharing, non-hierarchical structure, with clear links designed to connect members of the Network.

We liked the direction of movement in renaming the Forum as Gathering of Community and agreed to revisit this name at the next GOC meeting.

We also agreed to re-name the Forum or Gathering, representing the whole of the NVC community in Maine, to “*Gathering of Community*”. Membership in the Network remains open to all who have the intention to nourish NVC consciousness in Maine.

We agreed to a Steering Committee of no more than 9 members, meeting regularly by phone and face-to-face.

The Gathering of Community would be meeting twice a year or more frequently as necessary.

We asked the Steering Committee to revise the Aims of the Network and to report back at the next Gathering of Community.

Further Discussion: It was suggested that we change the name of the Network to the Maine Nonviolent Consciousness Network. Betsy will write up this idea, the Steering Committee will consider it, and we’ll look again at the next Gathering of Community.

We discussed adding a second, un-moderated discussion, Yahoo group and sought other ways of encouraging more dialogue including forming a Meetup Group. (Lily will explore this and support Kristi with the Facebook page.) We referred this to the Steering Committee and/or the Outreach Committee. It was also suggested that we invite all participants into the Yahoo or Meet-up Groups directly.

We recognize the importance of creating task descriptions for the Steering Committee and the other committees and ask the Steering Committee to share the same with everyone.

We agreed that we might add a *Request for NVC Speaker* link on our website. We noted that we could use e-mail addresses like steering@mainenvcnetwork.org, outreach@mainenvcnetwork.org, in addition to those we already have. These would forward to the person actually fielding these communications at the moment.

We valued the sharing of minutes of all meetings widely, much as we do now. We value the transparency created by sharing what the Steering Committee is working on and invite/encourage feedback or comments from the wider community throughout the year since the GOC only meets 2x year.

We proposed an article be written about spreading the NVC fire and enthusiasm, with a purpose of planting new seeds. Cynthia will draft and bring to the Steering Committee.

We bookmarked time at the next Gathering of Community for more extensive brainstorming to promote a richer tapestry of possibilities.

For the committees we noted that there are ample opportunities for people not at this Gathering of the Community to join in the ongoing work of the Network. We noted that all committees are still in a process of self-definition as to role and tasks and that we want to create definitions as we go forward.

Committees at this moment are:

Steering	Media	Outreach	Volunteers	Fundraising
Pat Cannon Howard Evans Andrea Ferrante Cynthia Handlin Lily Kapiloff Jen Leonard Eileen Liddy	Howard Evans Lily Kapiloff Kristi Kirkham Peggy Smith Betsy Terrell	Pat Cannon Cynthia Handlen	Jen Leonard	

Peggy Smith				
-------------	--	--	--	--

We noted that Norman Pasewalk was a member of the Steering Committee and that he (subsequently) told us that other priorities are calling for his attention and that he doesn't want to be on the steering committee now. He wishes us well.

We are aware that questions of funding were not addressed and remain important and wanted the Steering Committee to work on ways to raise money.

Minutes by Howard and reviewed by those present for completeness before distribution.