

**MDI Tomorrow – “Real Good Food” Group
Meeting Notes, April 23, 2003**

Present: Tricia Rouleau, Vicki Salsbury, Marcin Matuszek, Bruce Maanum, Lucian Smith, Maggie Smith, Thorin Smith, Dustin Eirdosh, Suzanne Morse, Zachary Davis, Jim Houghton (Howdy), Caleb Davis, Jessie Morrow, Setha Davenport, Kipp Quinby, Michael Anderson, David Dunton, Allison Gladstone, Heather Albert-Knopp (facilitating)

1. Review of project ideas discussed at MDI Tomorrow Conference; Are there project ideas missing from this list? A brief brainstorm brought the following additional project ideas to the table:
 - Collaboration with Acadia National Park – native plants, growing food, Jordan Pond House Dining Hall
 - Island-wide festival similar to the Common Ground Fair. There is an Octoberfest in Southwest Harbor -- they're trying to incorporate a farmers' market.
 - Use Island Explorer buses to access farmers' markets
 - Bar Harbor Farmers' Market – could it support more farmers, have craftspeople, more information about local food?

2. Preliminary Prioritization of Projects – We have a long list of projects, only a few of which we can begin to tackle this year as a group. Looking at what we have on the table, we tried to identify which projects seem the most important. For now, we've prioritized the following:
 - **Site Plan Approval Process** – Bar Harbor's Site Plan Approval process for agriculture-related activities is lengthy and expensive for prospective farmers. Anne Kreig, Town Planner for Bar Harbor, has put forward a motion to eliminate this process. Her proposal will be considered at this year's town meeting, upcoming on May 6. Depending on the likelihood that this proposal will pass, we may want to organize outreach before town meeting. (See below for action plan steps.)
 - **Strategic mapping of barriers & opportunities** – Map out the institutional/regulatory barriers to agriculture and locally-produced foods and the opportunities for strategic change. This will be the focus of the next meeting of the MDI Tomorrow Food group – a strategic planning process to begin to identify the barriers to local food production and consumption in our communities, including zoning ordinances, infrastructure, economics, social patterns, etc.
 - **Zoning Ordinances** – May be an important first step in reducing the barriers to small-scale local agriculture, including addressing the definitions of agriculture, farm stands, etc. This issue will be looked at in more detail as we do our strategic mapping project outlined above.
 - **Local Fisheries** – Better integration of local fisheries into the local food economy and public consciousness. Some potential projects could involve

profiling/publicity of restaurants that feature local seafood, building infrastructure (such as distribution), etc.

- **The general feeling of the group is that we can better determine how to focus our energies as a group after going through a strategic mapping/planning process.**

3. Next Steps in working on the Site Plan Approval Process for agriculture

[Please Note – people who agreed to specific tasks are listed below in brackets]:

- Do we need to do more public outreach on the site plan approval issue prior to town meeting?
 - A. Anne Kreig – is there support for this proposal? **[Lucian]**
 - B. Warrant Committee: Who's on this committee? **[Vicki]** What is the warrant committee's level of support for the proposal to remove the site plan approval process? **[Vicki, others]**
 - C. Text of the site plan approval process and exactly what's being considered at town meeting **[Lucian]**
- Through conversation with Anne Kreig and the members of the warrant committee, we will determine how much additional outreach is needed. Additional outreach will entail:
 - A. Specific examples of site plan approval process and how it is a barrier to local food producers **[Caleb]**
 - B. Letters to the editor **[Lucien, others]**
 - C. Interface w/ MDI Tomorrow – draw on support of Steering Committee, other groups **[Heather]**
 - D. People to speak to the issue at town meeting – and other people who have been affected by this process
 - E. Another meeting of this group to coordinate, prior to town meeting! **[Heather will notify group]**

4. Next Steps in Working on the Mapping out Barriers & Opportunities

- LUZOs for other municipalities **[Lucian will get Mt. Desert, Dustin, Heather]**
- MDI Tomorrow Land Use Group – what are they working on? How do we overlap? **[Dustin]**
- Next Meeting will focus on mapping out the barriers & opportunities for locally-produced/locally-consumed foods on and around MDI. Broader community participation in the meeting will help us get a better sense of how these issues are perceived. Specific people to invite include: Town Hill Market folks **[Tricia]**, Restaurateurs, other farmers, other members of the farmers market, relevant business-people such as Graves Supermarket, Alternative Market, others **[Everyone invite someone]**

5. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 – 8:00 PM – Location To Be Announced
Mapping the Barriers & Opportunities to Locally-Produced/Locally-Consumed Foods! Refreshments will be provided!