Woodstock Transition has a Garden Share Working Group, which aims to create local resilience and food security. A group of over 30 members meet monthly to share garden advise and learn from local experts.

Our latest meeting involved an outlook into the 2015 agenda. We agreed to take on projects of actions within our local community. One of these projects is a Seed Share Library, which will be located at the Woodstock Library.

The goal here is to support the Hudson Valley Seed Freedom Zone Project (www.seedlibrary.org/blog/declaration-on-seed-freedom) by creating a network of seed saving and exchange, allowing for the cycle of life to transmit through our hands and evolve in our gardens.

The ancient practices of seed saving and sharing are under threat. Plants carefully cultivated by farmers the world over for millennia – skills and knowledge that belong to no one and everyone – are being claimed as “inventions” and patented by corporations. Most of these patented seeds are genetically modified. Saving and sharing seeds is a crucial tradition for future generations. Within each seed lays a storehouse of knowledge, recalling the kind of soil it was grown, the amount of sun, rain and nutrients that it requires, when to sprout and when to bear fruit.

These Seed Share Libraries hope to encourage the saving and sharing of non-genetically modified seeds. Seeds that are free for everyone to grow and harvest, seeds that will produce more seeds, to grow again year after year. In these seeds is the hope of life.

Some other topics expressed at the meeting were:

1. Turning community space, in the middle of town, into gardens
2. Combining people with land and gardeners who want to garden, who don’t have land.
3. Community projects such as teaching construction of solar dehydrators, greenhouses.
4. Increase our relationship with our local farmers, i.e., Whirligig, Longyear, 4 Winds.
5. Connect with other Woodstock Transition Groups such as Emergency Preparedness and WOW.
6. Other possible future programs include planting milkweed seeds for butterflies to feed on.

We would like more people from the community to be involved with Woodstock Transition. If you would like to get involved, the next meeting.

Jarred Williams and Lala Bhakti / Saugerties