

25 April 2011

THE ALPHA COMMUNITY READING LIST

If citizens are going to evolve a prosperous and sustainable future, books will be an important tool.

[*THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* * lists 146 books in APPENDIX THREE – READINGS. According to Amazon.Com, the book’s End Notes cite over 190 books. “Fireside Reading,” Chapter 34 of *TRILO-G* ** reviews, summarizes or notes over 100 books.]

The following is a selection of 22 recent books from the SYNERGY library, presented in five topic areas. These are areas of understanding with which citizens must be familiar if Households are to evolve functional human settlement patterns at the Cluster, Neighborhood, Village, Community, SubRegional and Regional scales.

Settlement patterns at all these scales are the sine qua non of economic prosperity, social stability and environmental sustainability.

I. THE BIG PICTURE

The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability, James Gustave Speth, 2008.

Supercapitalism: The Transformation of Business, Democracy and Everyday Life, Robert B. Reich, 2007.

CORNERED: The New Monopoly Capitalism and the Economics of Destruction, Barry C. Lynn, 2010.

AFTERSHOCK: The Next Economy and America’s Future, Robert B. Reich, 2010.

The GREAT RESET: How New Ways of Living and Working Drive Post-Crash Prosperity, Richard Florida, 2010.

II. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

GREEN METROPOLIS: Why Living Smaller, Living Closer, and Driving Less Are the Keys to sustainability, David Owen, 2009.

RETROFITTING SUBURBIA: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs. Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson, 2011.

III. ALPHA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REALITY

CHEAP: The High Cost of Discount Culture, Ellen Ruppel Shell, 2009.

We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess, Daniel Akst, 2011.

Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age, Michael H. Shuman, 2000.

the small-mart revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition. Michael H. Shuman, 2006.

BIG-BOX SWINDLE: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses, Stacy Mitchell, 2006.

IV. COOPERATION AND CONSERVATION IN BALANCE WITH COMPETITION AND CONSUMPTION – TRUE CONSERVATISM

GOVERNING THE COMMONS: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action, Elinor Ostrom, 1990.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES FROM THE INSIDE OUT: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Communities's Assets, John P. Kretzmann and John L. McKnight, 1993.

The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods, John McKnight and Peter Block, 2010.

Community: The Structure of Belonging, Peter Block, 2008.

Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work, Matthew B. Crawford, 2009.

THE VALUE OF NOTHING: How to reshape market society and redefine democracy, Raj Patel, 2009.

ALL THAT WE SHARE: a Field Guide to the Commons, Jay Walljasper, 2010.

V. THE BOTTOM LINE

the not so big life: Making Room for What Really Matters, Sarah Susanka, 2007.

Pocket Neighborhoods: Creating Small-Scale Community in a Large Scale World, Ross Chapin, 2011.

in-laws, outlaws and granny flats: Your Guide to Turning One House Into Two Homes, Michael Litchfield, 2011

* Risse, E M. *The Shape of the Future: (Vol I) The Critical, Overarching Impact of Human Settlement Pattern on Citizens' Economic, Social and Environmental Well-Being and (Vol II) Prospering in 21st Century New Urban Regions*. Warrenton, VA: SYNERGY/Resources, 2000.

** Risse, E M. *TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION: How to Make the World a Better Place One Alpha Community at a Time*. Warrenton, VA: SYNERGY/Resources, 2010.