**Listening Learning Session**

**Dryden, NY**

**October 11, 2011**

**Attending:** Mary Ann Sumner (Town Supervisor), Diane Pamel (Southworth Library), Marty Christofferson (TC3), Nelson Mead, Chris Gibbons, Anne Rhodes

**Foundation Representatives:** George Ferrari, Amy Yale-Loehr, Linda Madeo

**Issues Raised:**

Need infrastructure to connect people to services and each other.

Need a “vision of community.”

Skills for networking (not hierarchy).

People are more anxious, nervous (due to economy, etc.).

Had a Dryden “Community Café” for a while, but people didn’t use it enough for it to

 stay open … very limited hours now.

Dryden covers approximately 100 square miles; transportation is an issue as for

 other rural communities.

A number of people living below poverty level; access to food is a problem.

High-speed connectivity; could use grant support for new system. Broadband is

 very spotty. But something is expected to happen regarding Wi-Fi …

Impression that foundations don’t like to give ongoing support.

Another impression that the Foundation’s application forms are very complicated.

Needs of young people – recreation, leadership (learning to advocate for themselves), need a facility (maybe a park) for recreation. Youth are without Internet connectivity. TC3 has old computers it could donate.

Regarding the elderly, caregivers have a tough time … need respite.