

## Solo workers share 'Beahive'

### Beacon facility offers space for fee

BY CRAIG WOLF • POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL • JULY 18, 2009

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BEACON - A shared workspace is what they call it. This "Beahive" of activity is also a collaborative approach in which independent workers share space.

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It's not exactly a customary office setting, but an adaptation that works well for people who need a place, but not a lot of space.

Beahive, as founder Scott Tillitt calls it, has opened at 291 Main St. in Beacon. Members pay so much per month for as much desk space and time as they need.

A "resident desk" goes for \$200 a month, for example, and a "lite co-worker" using space for eight days a month costs \$90 a month.

It works on three levels, Tillitt said. His personal work is the Antidote Collective, a public relations business.

"The most fundamental level is that we offer shared work space, a desk for people to come and get out of their home, so they can just focus on their work," he said.

The second level is collaboration, he said.

"There are different backgrounds, different skills. You can bounce ideas off of someone, somewhat like what you would find in an office," Tillitt said.

Most of the clientele work solo or in small groups and don't have an office watercooler complete with colleagues to chat with.

Tillitt has worked at a home office. "I would sometimes get lonely and miss the camaraderie you would get in an office," he said.

The third level is the one Tillitt considers unique in the sphere of shared work spaces, and that's the community aspect.

"There's a range of creative and technical talent," he said. "We're all inspired to do something beyond ourselves and our professions. This will eventually lead to some kind of community project."

Kelly Kingman, who works as a magazine photo editor and does freelance writing, takes space under the eight-days-a-month plan.

"It's great. I really enjoy the focus and getting out of my house," she said. "There's always something to distract you. I have cats. They sit on my desk. It's nice, but it's also good to go somewhere where you don't have these things."

The 1907 building, originally a telephone office, is owned by Deborah Bigelow.

Kingman said it's a good work space. "She's restored it, and it feels very loft-like, high ceilings and big windows."

Reach Craig Wolf at 845-437-4815 or [cwolf@poughkeepsiejournal.com](mailto:cwolf@poughkeepsiejournal.com)

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Andrea Ramirez, left, shares a table with Anne Dailey and founder Scott Tillitt at Beahive in Beacon. Behind them are Nora Olsen and Gary Perez. (Emily Bogle/For the Poughkeepsie Journal)



Beahive founder Tillitt says it offers a place for solo workers to do their work away from home while providing camaraderie with others and the opportunity to bounce ideas off one another.

#### ON THE WEB

For information about Beahive in Beacon, visit [www.beahivebeacon.com](http://www.beahivebeacon.com)

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