



APPROVED MINUTES

Upper Valley Food Co-op | Board of Directors Minutes

July 27, 2021, 6pm | UVFC Classroom!!!

193 North Main Street | White River Junction, VT 05001+

Directors present: Cat Buxton, Carrie Kocik, Johanna Mirenda, Rio Pires, Tina Barney, Debbie Diegoli, Kye Cochran, Kerry Rosenthal, Elizabeth Feinberg

Directors absent: Zea Luce, Sam Cronin

GMT present: Sue Miller

Members present: none

Facilitator: Kerry Rosenthal

Recorder: Larissa Sharff

PROCEEDINGS

Open meeting begins at 6:02pm. Called to order by Kerry Rosenthal.

1. Agenda & Announcements

- Reading of the Ends
- Board Emails: none
- Member Comments: none
- Agenda Amendment:
- Announcements: We're back in the classroom and it feels great!
- Board Connection: The board and GMT took ten minutes for everyone to check-in about how they're doing personally. In person, the board is able to socialize and connect before and after the meeting.

2. Meeting Minutes

- June Meeting Minutes
 - Change: The announcements section was an accidental holdover from a previous month and will be removed.
 - **Approved by CONSENSUS**

3. New Business from the GMT

- Sunday Hours
 - The store will soon be open on Sundays, but we don't have a date set yet.
- First Friday
 - Sue is looking for musician and food truck recommendations for First Fridays over the summer. Jo recommended Jamaican Jewels.
- Financials
 - Kerry asked why May came in under budget. Sue said that May and June are funny months, in that sometimes they're big and sometimes they're not. She also said that customers aren't back up to their usual shopping amount. The way that people are shopping now continues to be very different.
 - Sunshine in particular is searching for products that aren't carried by other businesses in the area as a way to draw customers in.
 - Sue commented that the produce department is continuing to shine and draw in a lot of people.

4. Policy Governance

- G6 Board Committee Principles:
 - The Board reviewed and discussed the policy and monitoring.
 - Comments: Tina suggested creating a back-up of Board files on a harddrive, in case something happens to dropbox. Sue commented that the store is in the process of installing a private server.

- We want to add record management as a sub item to a policy. Cat will find an appropriate policy for that addition and will report back at the next meeting.
- **Approved by CONSENSUS**

5. New Business for the Board

- Harvest Celebration Check-in
 - Raffle prizes: Cat is starting a list. Carrie said Stonyfield might want to donate a package. Kye will give two chestnut trees.
 - Chances are good that we won't be able to do a potluck. Elizabeth suggested supporting local caterers and hiring a food-truck or similar caterer to provide food for the Harvest Celebration. Sue brought up that we wouldn't want to talk to food providers about catering the Harvest Celebration and then cancel because we have to switch to virtual. But there are ways to make that work even for a virtual meeting. Kerry brought up that the number of attendees we usually get at our Harvest Celebration wouldn't support numerous food trucks.
- Nominating Committee Check-in
 - There were three people interested, but one has dropped out and no one has officially applied yet.
 - Jo offered to reach out to the candidates of the Hartford Selectboard election who weren't elected. If they are interested in serving the community in that capacity, they might be interested in joining our board.
- Post-retreat Discussion
 - Cat talked about looking through the board policies to look for instances of oppressive language that we haven't previously noticed. Jo said we should also look through our buying guidelines.
 - There was discussion of bringing in Darnell Adams to lead a discussion on inclusion. The concern of cost was brought up, but Sue said that something with high value is worth the cost, and the board doesn't need to be afraid of cost. The voted to approve contacting Darnell about pricing and availability.
 - The board voted to add a line to our policy monitoring template the question: Does this meet our values?
- Finalize Board Self-Evaluation
 - Discussion was had about if the submissions should be anonymous. The board agreed to do anonymous submission. Larissa and Tina will create an online survey.
 - We'll add the question: Is there anything about this survey that you would change?

6. Assignments

- E Ends: Zea (or Cat)
- M4: Elizabeth
- Cat: Search for a policy to add a sub-item about record management.
- Cat: Contact Darnell about pricing and availability.
- Jo: Contact Hartford Selectboard candidates about possibly
- Larissa, Tina: Digitize the self-evaluation for an online survey, and collate results.
- All: Fill out board self-evaluation survey.
- All: Gather raffle prizes for Harvest Celebration.

7. Takeaways

- Rio: I'm happy to be here in person and I've taken a lot from this meeting.
- Cat: It's great to be back here with you all. I'm glad to hear that co-op is bringing back customers and doing well.
- Sue: I'm always grateful for the support and the open discussions we have in this room.
- Kerry: I also am very glad to be back in person. I had a hard time wearing the mask all evening, but it's still great to see everyone and get stuff done. It feels more real when we're doing it this way.
- Tina: I also found the mask really hot. But I appreciate that we were able to be indoors. And it feels good that everyone on the board was able to come through Covid-19 and stay healthy and safe.

- Elizabeth: I'm excited about the diversity discussion being had.
- Kye: I feel much more comfortable doing this in person, just because I'm lounging on the sofa! I also look forward to these discussions about diversity.
- Jo: I echo Kye and Elizabeth on the comments about diversity. Being in person, what a milestone! I also think we could add a few line items to our History Timeline sheet.
- Debbie: I really appreciated the attention spent on how to follow up on our retreat.
- Carrie: I enjoyed watching Debbie's cat. Being still on the zoom, it was nice to hear that there was a little more energy in the room. I'm really grateful to Tina for coming up with the self-evaluation.

8. General Session Adjourned 7:45pm