



# APPROVED MINUTES

## Upper Valley Food Co-op | Board of Directors Minutes

February 27th, 2024, 6pm | Hybrid

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

**Directors present:** Tina Barney, Kate Rohdenburg, Chris Sneddon, Kerry Rosenthal, Zea Luce, Pamela Perkins, Rio Pires, Sam Sukumar

**Directors absent:** Max Wunderlich

**GM present:** Darrion Whalen

**Members present:** None

**Others present:** Mike Atkinson (new Grocery Manager)

**Facilitator:** Tina Barney

**Recorder:** Larissa Sharff

### PROCEEDINGS

*Open meeting begins at 6:00pm. Called to order by Tina Barney.*

#### 1. Agenda & Announcements

- Check-ins and Reading of the Ends: Mike introduced himself. It was his first day!
- Board Emails: none
- Member Comments: none
- Agenda Amendment: EL3 will get moved to next month since Max is absent.
- Announcements: none

#### 2. Meeting Minutes

- January Meeting Minutes
  - Change: none
  - **Approved by CONSENSUS**

#### 3. New Business from the GM

- Floor Cleaning
  - Our floors are getting a new coat of wax! But with the salt and sand they're already getting destroyed. Darrion is thinking about a different timing to avoid that.
  - With structures getting moved around for the cleaning, Darrion replaced some of the large rack structures by the cash registers with wooden ones that have a smaller footprint
- Local Producers
  - We've brought in another local egg producer.
- Deli Packaging
  - We've gotten a roll of butcher paper to try out wrapping the sandwiches in paper instead of plastic.
- NOFA-VT
  - Darrion attended the NOFA-VT conference, which was a great learning experience.
- New Grocery Manager
  - Mike started the job today. He seems very excited to be here. He was already cleaning shelves and getting his hands dirty with work.
- Financials
  - Stellar numbers in December!

#### 4. Policy Governance

- G&G1 Governing Style
  - Chris led the discussion of the policy.
  - **Approved by CONSENSUS**

## 5. New Business for the Board

### • Solar Array Inquiry

- It was discovered that the electric breaker in our building is a fire hazard, given the manufacturer and date of manufacturing (similar to when a car is recalled). The breaker will be getting assessed tomorrow, to find out what it will cost to replace it. SunCommon refused to consider putting a solar array on the building until the breaker is replaced. Catamount had a plan to have the wiring avoid the breaker.
- Kerry wondered why Catamount didn't mention the breaker issue if it's such a danger. Tina believes Catamount didn't send a master electrician like SunCommon did, they only sent a project manager. Kerry still felt strongly that we should get a second opinion before moving ahead with replacing the breaker.
- Tina asked the board to pre-approve any high expenditures that may need to be made to replace the breaker. The board agreed that Darrion can start making arrangements to replace the breaker.
- There is a grant for solar power, with a deadline of March 31st, through REAP (Rural Energy for America Program). Tina is gathering data of all the electric that we use so we can apply for this grant. Terms include up to a 50% reimbursement from the government once the projects are completed, as well as a federal and state tax credit. The board will review the application at the March meeting before approving anything. This will also have data and cost numbers from SunCommon. Chris offered to help with this project. If we apply for the grant but do not receive funding, SunCommon said we would be under no obligation to go ahead with the project.
- Sam commented that this project feels operational. The board agreed that this is in the gray area between operations and board work, and Darrion was very happy for Tina to do the research around this project and write the application for the grant.

### • Conference Attendance

- Darrion is hoping to attend the NFCA Conference on March 16th, but he isn't confident if he can make it. If he can't go, he'll try to send Mike in his place. Tina and Chris will be attending in-person. The board will check if Max wants to go.
- CCMA is in Portland, ME this year. Sam, Kate, Tina, Zea, and Chris are planning to attend. Pamela would like to attend virtually.

### • Coffee Date check-in

- Sam and Kerry did the February Coffee Date. The only person who came was Melinda, who knew they were lonely upstairs. Sam has sandwich boards that could be used for next time.
- The board talked about moving it downstairs to catch people. Sam suggested doing it on the porch in nice weather.
- Tina suggested an announcement over the loudspeaker to direct shoppers.

### • Board Retreat / Education

- Larissa suggested doing a post-CCMA retreat, to have long form discussions of the what everyone took away from the conference. Kate suggested doing it the same day as the Ice Cream Social, which the board liked. The board retreat will be 9am to 12pm, and then the board will help out with the Ice Cream Social 1 to 3pm.
- The board also reviewed other education ideas.

## 6. Assignments

- EL10: Zea
- NFCA Conference: Tina, Chris

## 7. General Session Adjourned 7:50pm