



APPROVED MINUTES

Upper Valley Food Co-op | Board of Directors Minutes

July 28th, 2020, 6pm | Videocall via ZOOM

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

Directors present: Kerry Rosenthal, Elizabeth Feinberg, Johanna Mirenda, Carrie Kocik, Tina Barney, Zea Luce, Rio Pires, Kye Cochran, Debbie Diegoli, Sarah Wood (joined late)

Directors absent: Cat Buxton, Sam Cronin

GMT present: Sue Miller

Members present: Charlie Goldensher

Facilitator: Kerry Rosenthal

Recorder: Larissa Sharff

PROCEEDINGS

Open meeting begins at 6:00pm. Called to order by Kerry Rosenthal.

1. Agenda & Announcements

- Reading of the Ends
- Board Emails: one operations email forwarded to the GMT
- Member Comments: none
- Agenda Amendment: During Nom Com report, we need to talk about officers.
- Announcements: Kerry sent out an email from NFCA with a survey. If you have time, please fill out that survey. Also, Carrie is due to have her baby in the next few weeks and will not be at the next meeting.
- 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: none
 - **Approved by CONSENSUS**

3. New Business from the GMT

- Customer Appreciation
 - Sue highlighted the continued gratitude and support that customers share with us. They appreciate that we're open, we're offering curbside, and how we're handling the situation. We are so loved in this community.
- Sharon's Resignation
 - Sharon had already been cutting down her hours in the store. This was already something coming. Robert has been training for the position for some time and was officially promoted to Produce Manager last week.
- Discontinued Products
 - For a long time, the GMT has been wanting to reduce the store's inventory. We've been carrying more inventory than we need. They want to reduce it by about 15%. The GMT asked all managers to look at their product movements and see what doesn't need to be on the shelf.
- Financials
 - Norm got us the Vermont Economic Recovery Grant for \$50k! Being a grant, we don't have to pay it back.

4. Policy Governance

- Ends Policy: Sue asked if the Ends monitoring could be put off until September or October. The board approved this.
- EL10 Cooperative Economy:
 - The Board reviewed and discussed the policy and monitoring.
 - Comments: none
 - **Approved by CONSENSUS**
- G6 Board Committee Principles:
 - The Board reviewed and discussed the policy.
 - **Approved by CONSENSUS**

5. New Business for the Board

- Harvest Celebration Check-in
 - Sue believes strongly that it should be kept as a simple meeting, and be done over Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is for the Board to do their business, and for the GMT to report to the membership. Here is Sue's tentative agenda for the meeting:
 - Meeting will start with a general welcome
 - The Board will do their annual meeting business (giving the results of the elections and nominating/electing officers)
 - GMT will do a year-in-review
 - Q&A with the membership (run through the chat function).
 - Zea started a good discussion about promoting the Harvest Celebration and getting members to attend.
- Nominating Committee
 - Recruitment: There were three people interested, but they've all decided not to run. It looks like the election will only be Board Directors up for re-election. Sarah has decided not to run for re-election.
 - Officers: Kerry encouraged every to think about if they want to run for an officer role. Zea's name was brought up, but she politely declined.
- Board Self-Evaluation Surveys
 - Last year the board had decided that it didn't like the Columinate survey and had planned on creating a new survey, but that didn't happen during this hectic time. Debbie pointed out that we don't technically need to do a survey, because our policy monitoring counts as self-evaluation. She also suggested that the board just answer the open-ended questions at the end of the Columinate survey.
- Recap on Michael's Workshop
 - Debbie and Kerry attended. Debbie didn't feel she learned a whole lot of new information, but it was well-run. Mostly she thought we're already doing much of what he suggested.
 - Kerry also felt the board is already doing most of his suggestions.

6. Assignments

- G5: Jo
- EL6: Elizabeth
- Those up for re-election: send bio and pic to Zea
- Debbie/Kerry: ask Michael Healy about Board Self-Evaluation Survey

7. Takeaways

- Elizabeth: Good luck to Carrie, who's about to have her baby!
- Carrie: I wish we could meet in person soon!
- Kerry: I also like the idea of meeting in person, even if it was just for dinner.

- Tina: I was glad to hear Sue say that even people who aren't our members are still coming to our store and are glad we're here.
- Zea: I was glad to read Sharon's letter and I'm really happy for Robert.
- Debbie: I'm sad that Sarah's not going to continue on the board, though I certainly understand her reasons.
- Rio: Sue, great information about the porch conversations. I'm happy that Sharon is happy, though we'll miss her.
- Jo: Was glad to see Sue and Norm with their policy monitoring! It's a nice glimmer of normalcy. Also glad to hear the good work in progress on the Annual Meeting planning.
- Kye: I was delighted to read Sharon's letter. I'm also delighted about what's happening on the porch at the co-op, that Sue and Norm are connecting with people. The leadership is wonderful and we're doing great.
- Charlie: If you meet in person for a meeting, please make accommodations for people who are not board members.

8. General Session Adjourned 7:25pm