

Approved 8/4/11

**Willimantic Food Co-op
Board of Directors' Meeting
July 7, 2011**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

In Attendance Were:

* Alice Rubin	* Bryan O'Hara	Dan Britton	*Joanne Todd
* Johnnie Walker	* Kathleen Krider	* Kirk Begg	* Maiga Doocey
Maria Boekels Gogarten	* Matthew Kyer	* Stephanie Golaski	

Scribe: Stephanie Golaski

* = Present

Member / Guest: None

Member Speak Out:

Stephanie requested, as a member, sourdough bread. Maiga will follow-up. She mentioned to write the request in the book.

Approve Board Minutes from June 2, 2011:

Matthew is happy that the minutes say he has a skill-set. Kathleen asked if there were any changes that needed to be made to the June minutes, none were mentioned. Kirk motioned to approve the minutes. Stephanie, Alice, Bryan, and Joanne seconded the motion.

Kathleen mentioned that it is really important to read the minutes before our meetings. We discussed getting minutes out to the board sooner to help us remember what we say and remember to do it. Please read monitoring reports and minutes before meetings. How are we going to support what we do? Out of respect for all Alice does, we should make sure to read the monitoring reports and minutes prior to our meetings.

Board Contact Discussion

Board contact information dates were not correct. 4 people who are '13's. Matt referred back to previous meeting minutes. Joanne, Kirk, and Stephanie who would cover which appointment. Stephanie-13, Kirk-1 year appointment, Joanne-13.

Kathleen says "Matt-13, Kathleen and Bryan-14." Discussion concerning Matt being 13, someone asked if he ran for election this year.

Johnny 14

Kathleen 14

Bryan 14

(They all stood up for election.)

Joanne 13

Matt 13

Maria 13

Dan 12

Eric 12

Stephanie is going to be a 12 and run next year. Matt will email Susan to tell her.

Board Retreat Agenda (7:21)

Kathleen mentioned giving directions to her house. Matt emailed directions as we spoke. It was mentioned that the agenda was broken into bigger chunks. Everyone was happy with lunch idea. Kathleen asked if she could tell Thane “it is a go?” Board replied, “yes.”

The agenda was changed to reflect Dan’s resignation.

Alice discussed food, no caterer, many ideas...

- fruits, scones, coffee—breakfast
- breads, cheeses, meats (?), salad fixin’s, some sweets—lunch

Alice asked, “will this be adequate?” All replied, “yes.” “Any dietary needs?” All replied, “no.”

Bryan—greens and carrots

There will be tea, juice, and a coffee maker.

Bryan noted that the agenda seemed to be heavy on policy governance. We discussed wanting to spend time discussing where we are going next, not how. Kathleen mentioned that Thane sees governance as a joyful thing and Kathleen feels confident Thane is aware of what we need and will make sure we get to do this. A concern was discussed that valuable time might be eaten up with things not working the way we need the day to go. We want an organic opportunity—free-range time.

The benefit of monitoring our policies was discussed with time constraints and limited resources in mind. Monitoring policy reports is a heavy time constraint. It was suggested that we ask Thane to give us concrete examples of how to mesh what we want and policy governance go together.

Kathleen will ask for free-range time.

“Are we all going to be there?” Everyone present at tonight’s meeting + Shandra.

11-12 people will be in attendance at 7/10 retreat.

“Are we gathering socially before the retreat?” No social gathering before retreat.

Meeting at Kathleen’s at 8:30 Sunday, starting at 9:00.

Joanne does not need to do SWAT.

Kirk asked if the board calendar would be revised/finalized at the board retreat. Matt, “That is when we decide.” Alice, “This is when we do everything, all of the dates for the year, starting point for the dates for the year.”

Kirk suggested an extra meeting to push forward what we want to get moving. Maybe we could dedicate more time at another time.

Matt suggested that new members might benefit from a reading of governance. Joanne said it would be nice to have something short to read.

Kathleen said there will be a brief primer, handouts, 20 minutes of policy governance and the afternoon all about future planning. Thane will have an active learning style.

Matt will email policy governance.

(temporary time-out to move vehicles)

Visions of where things go from here...how do we get meeting to match what we need? What are the needs of the Coop in growth? Kirk suggested we prepare for growth through hypothetical situations. —Hunger for the next step.—

What will benefit the Coop? Are we a 30 year old looking for a mortgage or are we 22 getting a master's?

Suggested at beginning of retreat, we brainstorm questions Thane could refer back to—a bulleted list of questions. Matt, “Bring questions.” Bryan, “Yes.” Kathleen, “Thane will be able to address them.”

Discussion about having a plan in place so if something comes up, we have a plan.

Involve membership in meaningful way to see where we are going.

Store Update:

Maiga: The staff has been involved in mini-Spanish lessons; they had the second one today (6/2). The classes are covering the basics, explaining membership. Matt asked if there would be more and how frequent they would be. Maiga replied, “not a lot, but considering community and what we are offering the community.” There are 2 more scheduled.

The parade—SO COOL—lots of feedback. They had 3 practices, shopping cart routine, J. S. built the giant cart. There was a stilt walker. The whole routine was very fun! There is a video on Youtube.

Alice reported that the sales figures were not so good. Not a lot of growth over the last three months. Inventory was canceled due to the change in the sales tax rate and tax on supplements. Quarterly inventory will be taken. Alice mentioned that they are working on yearly evaluations—job reviews.

B.7 Customer Service and Value Report (8:15)

Kathleen asked if there were any questions for Alice. Matt mentioned that pleasant was hard to define.

Compliments were given to Alice about how she did this in the store. Compliments were given to the music in the store. It was mentioned that music is an on going discussion at the store.

High quality and inexpensive, mark-up system, organic vs. conventional. Discussion around quality means more expensive. Bryan asked, “what kind of progress is being made at balancing this price difference?” Alice responded, “change is happening, variable mark-ups in grocery and produce.” Looking more at prices on the market place. Bryan is happy with this. Alice mentioned that suppliers charge us what other Coops are buying for.

Kathleen mentioned that point of sale system might be a form of bean counting. Alice mentioned it might be difficult to compete with bigger markets.

The question was asked, “Why shop at the Coop?” The Coop offers high quality goods not sold in general markets, local produce, and money is put right back into the local community—stays local. Kirk suggests that, maybe, months down the road, a subcommittee be formed concerning issues that might be important to the longevity of the Coop.

This discussion brought up the question of what do members want? The BOD has to find out what it can do.

Kathleen stated that she felt, currently, the Coop is meeting its mission concerning B.7 at this time.

Building Updates—Envisioning the Future

Ideas brought up:

- visioning—5 year plan
- competition potential
- expansion issues, get smaller if we need too (Bryan)

Member Survey

The survey is short and to the point. Stephanie will type it up and have it to Alice for the newsletter. Information about the survey will be available in the newsletter and on Survey Monkey. It can be dropped off at the Coop.

Kathleen asked if there were any other items that needed to be discussed, the response was no.

Meeting adjourned, 8:55.

Next Board meeting – August 2, 2011