

Willimantic Food Co-op
Board of Director's Meeting
June 7, 2012

In attendance:

*Alice Rubin	*Bryan O'Hara	Joanne Todd	Johnnie Walker
*Kathleen Krider	*Kirk Begg	*John Clark	Matthew Kryer
*Stephanie Golaski			

Scribe: Stephanie Golaski

*=Present

Also in attendance: Bruce, Shandra, Leigh Duffy, Shoshana

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m.

Member Speak Out:

No members spoke out.

Approve April 5th Minutes

Motion to approve 5/3/12 minutes with the correction of John Clark's name.

Motion seconded.

All in favor.

New Business

Shoshana—CLICK—Community Licensed Cooperative Kitchen

- Industrial kitchen—large quantities of food and resell it
- Incubator for small business
- Some farmers make own food
- Process food for resale
- Running it on cooperative values
- People who want to start small business
- License
- Fully insured—people who use it would have to be insured too
- Nominal fee--\$200 to become a member, with a \$20 per hour charge to use the kitchen
 - SERVE SAFE (certification)
 - 1-2 day class all kitchen requirements for health and safety
 - \$130—English and Spanish—Once a month
- As a member of CLICK:
 - 1 free SERVE SAFE education certificate
 - Someone has to be on duty that is SERVE SAFE qualified
- \$100,000 grant (put into serve safe program)
- \$300,000 to build kitchen
- 501C3 just came through

Location:???

- In negotiation with ACESS agency building where generations was
- For "low income"

- 2000 square feet
- Community organized, community effort

Time Table:??????

- As soon as we get the money to build
- Solid vision—list of equipment
- ALTA LASH
- Individual small business catering

How do we stay connected:??????

- Any vision of what anyone would need
- Looking for partnership/members?
- Would be looking for partnering.
- June Third Thursday will be handing out leaflets
- CT Economic Development—give all members free advice on how to run a business
- Been a long time coming
- Wanted the Coop to know so we can pass on the information
- Bring flyers to the store
- UCONN folks on the board
- Solid brand
- Any ideas or input.
- Shoshana will send information to Shandra

Additional Costs:

- freezer space
- refrigerator space

“What do you need from the COOP?”

- Does the Coop want to be a member?
- Does the Coop want to create local food?
- Not necessarily want something from the COOP
- Keep Coop abreast of what is going on

Old Business 7:43

Insurance Follow-Up

- Met with Chris, got forms for employment insurance, Patti is filling them out
- **Alice will check in with Patti**

Building Task Force Update

- No building task force update

Tabling

- Having button on while shopping
- Kirk hung out at Coop a little, Johnny was there
- Want to know when people are there—a plan so if people want to talk to board member they can plan ahead
- Engaging your membership
- Be structured about it
- Here is my email, call me let's set up a meeting—be there as an antennae

- How do you envision the board being that specific? (GETTING THE WORD OUT)
 - Board board
 - Website
 - Facebook
 - Newsletter
- **Stephanie email notes?**
- Suggestion book
- Board book refer people to a book
- **John create board binder and educate staff**
- **Note on board board**
- **Continue to think logistics—Bruce, Alice, John, Shandra**

New Business (continued)

Newsletter (Kathleen)

- Should be more fun some how
- Board piece look a little different
 - Dear Board Member:
 - “Ask the board”
- **Kirk will write the next board letter**
- **Brainstorm new names for tabling!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- **Kathleen and John will meet**
- Great conversation with Thane
- Policy Governance structure @ retreat—August 5th
 - Staff rep. role on the board
 - Staff rep. role in writing
- New business—what to do with August meeting—8/2, very close to retreat date

Food Corp Workers

- Higher a worker that goes to communities works with UCONN, schools education for kids around food and nutrition
- Alice on hiring committee
- Coop put \$500 toward salary—Windham got one
- Sourcing local foods
- Partnership
- CSA with restaurants (Carrie)

Working Member—Keep on the agenda

- We all like and think it is important
- Boards responsibility in taking that risk
- Doesn't want to take that risk for us
- Want all to feel comfortable
- Not have working members do jobs staff would do
- Brainstorm ways
- Liability as a store, workers comp for employees
- Size of coop play a factor
- Bigger discussion

- Coming up with justifications
- Viable in some places
- Valuable part of the Coop
- Ownership and the participation valuable—free education and publicity
- Work to save it
- Thane working to represent the issue
- Cap the number of working members
- Write to Laddy about his thoughts, current thoughts on the issue
- **CGEN list serve—Alice and Shandra**
 - Working member
 - Size
 - Audited
- Talk about it so we can be prepared—we could be a leader in this area

Monitoring Reports

Board—D2

- Training
- Ways to
- We rock D2—in compliance!

Motion that we are in compliance, Brian 2nd, all in favor

Alice—Emergency Management Succession

- Great plan—very thorough
- Who can sign checks—Bruce, Alice, Shandra—Should be in there

Motion to accept compliance, Kirk, Brian, John 2nd, all in favor, Alice abstained

Store Update

- YTD 12.33%
- May 13.24% over last May--\$400,000 additional dollars made
- Last year to date, 253 new members
- 370 new members this year
- Increase sales, not having to increase staffing

Board Calendar

- **Board monitor two reports in July D 3 and D4**
- GM August Financial report
- Possible meeting rooms at the old appliance store—call for more information

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned 9:05