

Willimantic Food Co-op
Board of Directors Meeting
September 4, 2014

Present: Kirk Begg, Chris Dubis, Kathleen Krider, Bryan O'Hara, Bruce Oscar, Alice Rubin, Patty Smith, Stephanie Golaski, Jonnie Walker, Matthew Kyer

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Alice spoke about Jen Karusseau Coop Fund of New England financing update.

Board Board

Question about June minutes

Up to date

Conversation about pictures up on the board board—group shot vs. individual pictures

Members Speak Out

Operational issue country of origin and farm of origin

Local/Regional/Domestic/Foreign

July Minutes approved Matthew moved, Chris seconded, all approved—Bryan abstained
Annual Retreat Minutes approved as Executive Minutes Matthew moved, Stephanie seconded, all in favor—Kathleen abstained.

Kirk will write a piece for the next newsletter discussing our Annual Meeting—Key talking points and cooperative principals. Provide a summary of the Annual Meeting.

Monitoring Reports:

Policy D3Agenda Planning —(Kirk moved in compliance, Bryan seconded) Kathleen and Alice meet a few weeks before monthly meeting to discuss agenda. The information is relayed to Matthew who then types the agenda.

Policy D4Board Meetings—(Jonnie moved in compliance, Kirk seconded) High level of responsibility for one another. All in favor of approval.

Policy B8—Membership—(Matthew moved in compliance, Stephanie seconded)

Inactive status, not lining up

By-law revisions address the changing needs of keeping track of current membership

Possibility of going forward with the scan cards

An inconsistency in the by-laws and practice—cause for a reflections on changing the by-laws not being noncompliant

Further discussion of by-law committee and changing the by-laws under membership

Previous conversations around changing by-laws when POS system was in place

All major changes must be approved by membership—All in favor, Bryan and Alice abstained.

POLICY B.3: FINANCIAL CONDITION and ACTIVITIES

Matthew made motion we are in compliance, Kirk seconded

Discussion of negative budget to actual expenses

Alice reports that things are going very well.

All in favor in compliance, Alice and Bryan abstained.

Store Update:

Patronage rebates, Joanne in membership report spoke about it.

We are not incorporated as a coop

Possibility of hiring a lawyer that can research becoming an incorporated coop—how our business entity fits within the coop model—what are the benefits?

Currently not eligible to participate in patronage rebates because of not being an incorporated coop

July and August Growth: over 8% sales growth

YTD Sales Growth: 8.03%

54 new members, July 87 in August

614 new members YTD as of August 31

Meat sales are up—\$4,000 in August, up \$500 from July.

Basics—added dairy, bulk, and wellness—100 items total. Amy Kallister—new logo coming soon. Working on words and texts for brochure and signs. Next frozen departments and then center of the store.

Article about Coop in the Neighbors Magazine (August) by Loretta Wrobel.

Membership focus group—What does it mean to be a part of the Coop? Great conversation, more questions than answers. Chris will get information to the staff.

Old Business:

Discussion of by-law committee. Bryan, Matthew, Alice—will get together and decide on a meeting date and report back. Time sensitive.

New Business:

NFCA—9/27, Hanover, New Hampshire—Joanne, Jonnie, and Kirk planning to attend, discussion of attendance during previous years.

Board Budget—CDS, Board Retreat, add money to annual meeting fund, Alice will look into the current budget, do we need extra money if we need different consultants to assist in our work as a board.

Projector for store.

Matthew made motion to move into Executive Session at 8:15, Kirk seconded. All in favor.

Matthew made a motion to exit executive session, Stephanie seconded, everyone was in favor. The board exited executive session at 9:05pm. Expansion was discussed during executive session.

Matthew made a motion to adjourn, Kathleen seconded, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm