

Willimantic Food Coop Annual Meeting Minutes
5/22/2022

Location: Camp Horizons, South Windham

Present: 55 people

Welcome and Introduction of Directors (Linda Brock)

Introduction of Candidates:

- Linda Brock
- Katherine Gavin
- Michael Maggs
- Nita Pandey
- Joanne Todd

Board Chair report (Brock) Q&A:

- Q: Say more about the conversation about equity and inclusion.
A: This is a strong value in the co-op world and it may become an 8th cooperative principle. We will be seeking assistance and consultation to deal with a sensitive and complex issue, taking time to give it full attention.

Treasurer's Report (Todd) Q&A:

- Q: How is membership compared to other years?
A: The numbers are about average - 20 per month

Management Report (Rubin):

Strong financial position with staff effort to mitigate the stresses of the pandemic and difficult economic situation.

- Q: What about the property across the street?
A: At this time plans are in transition and plans are affected by increasing building costs and lack of labor.
- Q: How are we protecting the asset of the building across the street?
A: The building is insured.
- Q: Will we outgrow the current location?
A: Not sure. The property across the street is being used as storage space.
- Q: How is UNFI, the largest supplier?
A: Performance has been poor recently, resulting in increased reliance on local providers.

Reincorporation Initiative

- Erbin Crowell (Executive Director, NFCA) [video](#)

- Why Reincorporate? (Kamola)
- How Reincorporate (Todd)
- Bylaws Component (Brock)

Q&A

- Q: Will the food co-op name change
A: Possibly slightly in legal paperwork, but can continue using the same name for day-to-day purposes.
- Q: Is there any reason people would vote no?
A: There is no substantial reason if people are well informed. Member rights will not change
Bylaws will be modernized.
- Q: Why will it take so long?
A: We will be writing bylaws, working with attorneys and educating members.
- Q: Will the bylaws vote be a special meeting? Before the next annual meeting?
A: Timing is pretty open. Vote likely late 2022, early 2023

Election Results:

- Brock: 92 votes (3-year term)
- Todd: 98 votes (3-year term)
- Pandey: 86 votes (3-year term)
- Gavin: 63 votes (2-year term)
- Maggs: 54 votes (not elected at this time)