

Willimantic Food Co-op  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2026 6:00-8:00 PM

WorkMode Office Space, 109 Valley St Suite B, Willimantic

**Directors attending:** Matthew Coolbeth, Patty Smith, Peter Kirk, Hannah Moore, Kathe Gable, Tomasyn Goode, Katherine Gavin, Stephanie White, Brock Alosky

**Others attending:** James Cashmore-Everton

**Call to Order – 6:02pm**

**Agenda Amendment**

Action: Add executive session after consent agenda to discuss update on lease negotiations with landlord. (Motion: Smith, Second: Coolbeth. Motion unanimously approved.)

**Consent Agenda**

- March meeting minutes
  - o Inconsistencies in use of first and last names in movements

Action: Approve minutes of March meeting with revisions. (Motion: Goode, Second: Brock. Motion unanimously approved.)
- Committee reports

**Executive Session: Update on Expansion Feasibility Work – 6:04pm**

Action: Enter executive session. (Motion: Smith, Second: Coolbeth. Motion unanimously approved.)

Executive session adjourned at 6:18pm.

**Store Report**

- Low sales growth in March, but last March we made 13% sales growth – hard to beat
- February sales slow due to weather – birthday party snowstorm, closed multiple days
- YTD growth 4.4%, budgeting 6.5%
  - o War, economy, political atmosphere, etc. probably affecting people’s shopping behaviors – fewer discretionary purchases, only getting necessities
  - o Store doesn’t feel slow at all – Easter coming up, has been busy
- Basket sales \$46ish, still good
- 2-3 big capex projects planned for this year
  - o Produce reset – new fruit cases, refrigerated center table
  - o Front end merchandisers – new handmade shelving units for in front of cash registers, two with inset refrigerators – rearranging refrigerated drinks
  - o Café remodel – redo coffee/soup counter, add hot merchandiser for paninis

- Co-op legislation – Patty attended hearing, submitted testimony – voted out of committee, will be going to the house in the next week or so
- CCMA coming up – 2-3 people can go, Tacoma WA May 28-31<sup>st</sup>
  - o Early bird registration still open

### **Update on Restructuring of Member Benefits**

- Teaser in newsletter: “Board and management are currently in the process of reviewing member benefits & discount programs to ensure equity and sustainability – keep an eye out for announcement later this year”
- Committee still hashing out details
  - o Launch date likely moved to September 1<sup>st</sup> – should give at least a 3 month notice
    - Announcement in June at the latest

### **Annual Meeting Preparation**

- Space is booked for June 3<sup>rd</sup> 6pm-8pm – Congregational Church
- James and Patty will take care of food
- Board will take the lead/host event this year – create planning committee?
  - o Devote time next meeting to planning – delegate tasks, create agenda
    - *Action item:* Matthew, Kathe, Tomasyn will zoom and create agenda
- Q&A – submit questions ahead of time? Panel?
  - o Offer to follow up afterwards if line of questioning gets intense
  - o Have moderator to help manage time
    - Time limits on answers – 3 or so minutes per question

### **Monitoring Reports**

- Board Monitoring Report C.4 Monitoring Manager Performance  
Action: Approve C.4 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Alosky, Second: Goode. Motion unanimously approved.)
- GM Monitoring Report B.6 Emergency Management Succession  
Action: Approve B.6 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Moore, Second: Alosky, Abstained: Smith.)
  - o Report serves as succession plan for board
    - (Motion approved by all others.)
- GM Monitoring Report A.1 Global Ends  
Action: Approve A.1 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Goode, Second: Coolbeth, Abstained: Smith.)
  - o Great data on environmental impact, diversity
  - o Excellent presentation – consider using as basis for annual meeting presentation
    - (Motion approved by all others.)

### **Retrospective on Gabby Davis**

- Everyone really enjoyed it – she was great
- Being nonjudgmental about others’ food choices
  - o You never know other people’s circumstances
- Should we run a health food store if that’s not what the world needs?
  - o Room for everything – run a health food store, but don’t preach health or assume we know the ultimate/correct definition of healthy
- Products that create healthy outcomes for a community depends on the community
  - o Accessibility for WIC/SNAP, ability to cook/microwave
- Kathe will put copies of presentations in Cloud9

### **Review of Draft Ends**

- Used the word “community” too many times
- “Healthful and nourishing foods for all” – not necessarily – can we ever provide food for all?
  - o Gabby Davis’ presentation – reasonable interpretation of healthful and nourishing?
- Ends are close, but still needs work
  - o *Action item:* Tomasyn will send out a poll to figure out availability for a zoom committee meeting that other board members can join to give more feedback

### **Go-around: Board Leadership Succession**

- Board members interested in (or at least open to)...
  - o Chair: Stephanie
  - o Vice chair: Katherine, Tomasyn, Stephanie
  - o Treasurer: Tomasyn
  - o Secretary: Peter, Tomasyn, Stephanie
- Should be doing this each year to make sure roles are filled
  - o Next year send out descriptions of role responsibilities before asking people
- Jessica Larkin-Wells will be here next meeting in Hannah’s place
- Next meeting we will approve the election slate
- No vice chair for month of May – we will be fine
- June meeting will be postponed by a week – June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Matthew will be absent in July – take the month off?

Action: Adjourn meeting. (Motion: Alosky, Second: Goode. Motion unanimously approved.)

**Adjourn – 8:04pm**