

Willimantic Food Co-op Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026 6:00-8:00 PM

WorkMode Office Space, 109 Valley St Suite B, Willimantic

Directors attending: Patty Smith, Kathe Gable, Tomasyn Goode, Peter Kirk, Katherine Gavin, Matthew Coolbeth, Jessica Larkin-Wells, Stephanie White

Absent: Monica Van Beusekom

Others attending: James Cashmore-Everton

Call to Order – 6:03 pm

Consent Agenda

- May meeting minutes
Action: Approve May minutes as written. (Motion: Goode, Second: Kirk. Motion unanimously approved.)

Monitoring Reports

- GM Monitoring Report: B.7 Customer Service & Value
Action: Approve B.7 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Kirk, Second: Goode, Abstained: Smith.)
 - o Creating more emphasis on private label & Field Day items to keep prices affordable & deliver value
 - o We are known in NCG circles as being exceptionally good at customer service
(Motion approved by all others.)
- Board Monitoring Report: D.5 Directors Code of Conduct
Action: Approve D.5 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Smith, Second: Coolbeth.)
 - o Vote to change “shall” to “must” in bullet no. 7
 - o Vote to change “he or she” throughout policy to “they”
 - o Conflict of interest forms should be filled out directly after annual meeting, when new members begin their terms
(Motion unanimously approved.)

Action: Revise language in Policy D.5. (Motion: Gable, Second: Goode. Motion unanimously approved.)
 - o *Action item:* Make sure policy manual is updated in Cloud9, send updated policy manual to Steve Murphy for website upload
 - Tomasyn will do this

Retrospectives

- Report from CCMA attendees Patty & Stephanie

- Stephanie went to conferences focused on board work – how board can help support GM, racial/cultural inclusivity & DEIB, and strategic planning processes
 - GM burnout is a huge issue right now – many are not retiring in their positions, creating nationwide shortage
 - Some co-ops considering creating sabbatical program for GMs
- Takeaways from Annual Meeting
 - Went very well
 - Food amazing – shoutout Angeles Mexican Food
 - Tables perpendicular to stage next year – people with their backs to the stage didn't have enough room to turn their chairs
 - Very good idea to have Q&A include full board
 - *Action item:* Next year each Board member should have nametags
 - James will set this up

Store Report

- Sales growth great for May, 8.5%
 - YTD sales growth at 5.4% - slightly under budget but better than it was in April
 - Store feels a little slow lately – college kids gone, more farmers markets happening, local people on vacation
 - Our sales growth is still ahead of NCG average of 1%
 - National inflation up to 4% in May – highest in 3 years
- Store logistics have been a bit chaotic with Matt away
 - Willow is acting grocery manager, doing excellent in new position
- Just hired a handful of new associates in multiple departments
- Shelves looking really good right now – out of stocks not as much of an issue lately
- New register displays – wooden fixtures & beverage coolers
- Pride party coming up Saturday 6/20 – will be super fun
 - Mel doing the majority of the planning, going all out

Appointments

- No July meeting
- Election of Board Officers – nomination slate is as follows:
 - Matt Coolbeth – Board Chair
 - Stephanie White – Vice Chair
 - Tomasyn Goode – Treasurer
 - Peter Kirk – Secretary

Action: Elect slate of officers to their respective roles. (Motion: Gable, Second: Gavin. Motion unanimously approved.)

 - *Action item:* Create written descriptions of each officer's role & responsibilities
 - Matt will do this
- Appointment of a Chair for the Board Perpetuation Committee
 - Katherine will do this

Executive Session: Update on Expansion Feasibility Work – 7:15pm

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

Executive session adjourned at 8:28pm.

Adjourn – 8:29pm