Willimantic Food Co-op
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2026 6:00-8:00 PM
WorkMode Office Space, 109 Valley St Suite B, Willimantic

Directors attending: Tomasyn Goode, Katherine Gavin, Monica van Beusekom, Kathe Gable, Jessica Larkin-Wells, Matthew Coolbeth, Stephanie White
Absent: Patty Smith, Peter Kirk
Others attending: James Cashmore-Everton

Call to Order – 6:05pm

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of August board meeting

  Action: Approve August minutes. (Motion: Goode, Second: Van Beusekom.)

  Action: Defer approval of August minutes until Patty is present. (Motion: Gable, Second: Van Beusekom. Motion unanimously approved.)

Monitoring Reports

- GM Monitoring Report: B.3 Financial Condition & Activities (from August)

  Action: Approve B.3 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Goode, Second: Coolbeth.)
  - Doing quite well especially given state of the economy

    (Motion unanimously approved.)
- GM Monitoring Report: B.5 Communication & Counsel to the Board

  Action: Approve B.5 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: White, Second: Gable.)
  - Patty is excellent at communicating – couldn't ask for more

    (Motion unanimously approved.)
- GM Monitoring Report: B.9 Board Logistical Support

  Action: Approve B.9 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Larkin-Wells, Second: Van Beusekom.)
  - How frequently do members read these minutes?
    - Very rare to see people reading the board book in the cafe
    - Could Steve get us website analytics on how often online minutes are accessed?
    - Patty says there is a small number of members who always read the minutes, but most members never look – aren't aware they exist/don't care
      - Content of most board meetings is not immediately relevant to members
        - Compost more relevant and interesting, social media keeps people updated
      - If we discuss anything in a board meeting that members might care about, should make a point to broadcast it in a more accessible channel

    (Motion unanimously approved.)

- Board Monitoring Report: D.3 Agenda Planning
    Action: Approve D.3 Monitoring Report as compliant. (Motion: Goode, Second: Coolbeth.)
    - Consider adding trainings, community events to board calendar in Cloud9
        (Motion unanimously approved.)

Update on Rollout of New Member Benefits Program

- Front end says it's going well on the floor, much better than expected
    - Rollout has been very successful, thoughtfully explained
- Many seniors who are losing their discount are understanding, not upset
    - Even seniors who are upset about the discount ending probably will keep coming in
- People from all over CT and some from RI are signing up for Ramp
    - Trying to make sure as few people as possible slip through the cracks
        - Federal programs aren't nearly generous enough – many people who are struggling don't qualify
            - Community referrals from local organizations
            - Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
                - Time limit – have to apply now
            - Families with kids participating in free/reduced lunch program
                - Windham Public Schools is universally free/reduced lunch because over 80% of school qualifies
        - River Valley Co-op in Northampton might be a good resource – they also have a food-for-all program, diverse socioeconomic population
- Stephanie spoke to a longtime member recently who said he is very pleased with the changes underway at the co-op under Patty's leadership
- Preorder update – orders must be submitted at least 2 days prior to sale end to get sale price
    - Been dealing with very low and negative margins on some orders – 15% off in addition to sale price if we are ordering at full price is not financially sustainable

Fall Board Retreat Logistics Planning

- Todd transportation
    - Patty will pick him up from Bradley on Friday, Matt will drop him back off on Sunday
    - Tomasyn will drive him to and from Chameleon Room on Saturday
- Food at retreat
    - *Action item:* Make sure board members' dietary needs are accounted for
        - James will send email
    - Gansett for lunch
        - Mediterranean platter instead of salad – minimize lettuce
    - Snack assortment for throughout the day
    - Light breakfast – fruit, pastries
        - Make sure Todd gets enough to eat – pick up sandwich for him if he wants it
    - Dinner with Todd

        - Friday night at 6:30ish – everyone try to come
            - Harp on Church first pick, Pho Delight backup
                - Make reservation wherever we decide
        - Saturday night – Matt and Patty will be there, anyone else is welcome
- Retreat will be primarily focused on strategic planning
    - Now that we have revised our ends, it's time to make a plan to achieve them
- Arrive between 8:30-9am, leave around 3pm
    - Don't need to bring anything, just ourselves

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

Adjourn – 6:54pm