

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting
September 20, 2011 Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room

Board Members Attending: John Miller, Laura Livingston, Richard Paget, Keith Herklotz

Absent Board Members: Allison Watters, Mia Strong

Others Attending: Mark Deeny (General Manager), Julia Klein (minute taker), Steve Benson (facilitator), Chris Ramsey (owner), Jerome Lawther (owner, Board candidate)

Julia Klein, minute taker

Keith Herklotz, task and decision keeper

Chris Ramsey, time keeper

Steve Benson, meeting facilitator

Approval of June, July, and August 2011 meeting minutes: **Minutes for the June 21, July 19, and August 16, 2011 Board meetings were approved with no changes.**

The Board approved a proposal from John Miller limiting Directors' edits of the minutes to corrections in spelling and grammar. Any changes in meaning will be noted at the end of the document. Absent directors may raise questions and concerns at the next meeting.

Time open to owners: Keith Herklotz shared his vision for two Co-op booths at the Blue Hill Fair providing a source for wholesome food and education about local and national co-ops. He described the Fair as an "untapped goldmine," a place to boost the bottom line, bring in volunteers and "put juice into our organization." Chris Ramsey suggested adjacent booths allowing people to learn while their food is prepared. Mark Deeny added that the Co-op discussed the possibility of a booth this year but opted for sponsoring three events with banners and prizes. However, their research indicated that a booth may be profitable in the future.

Election Committee Report: The Board accepted a report from John Miller. Mark Deeny commented that ballots are coming in abundantly indicating strong voter participation.

Policy Governance Committee: Laura Livingston reported on the committee's progress and clarified its purpose. She explained that examination of archived minutes revealed that only the practice of policy governance was put aside. The Board Policy book remains in effect. Laura also pointed out that the committee's name, 'Policy Governance Committee,' has slipped to 'Policy Review Committee.'

Patronage Dividend: **A proposal was made and approved to pay out the patronage dividend of \$4,583, to be announced at the Annual Meeting.** The dividend will be presented as gesture to owners marking a turning point. The Co-op has made money to give back! In the coming months Directors will develop a consensus of understanding regarding dividend distribution following bylaw article 8. John Miller and Mark Deeny will create a short document to be presented at the Annual Meeting after being reviewed by the accountant. The document will be reviewed by the Board over e-mail.

Introductions: The Board welcomed Jerome Lawther to the meeting and made introductions.

General Manager's Report: The Board accepted a report from the General Manager and voiced questions. Keith Herklotz raised concern regarding recent power outages which prevented the store from taking credit cards. Mark responded that a manual system has been developed to record credit cards and run them when power returns. Keith also inquired about the drop in Café sales last year. Mark responded that further research is needed to determine a cause, but the Café appears to remain profitable. John expressed concern that loss may result from not billing customers when they order. Mark replied that many Co-ops place a cash register in the Café but space is currently limited. Keith raised concern regarding money spent on credit card and service fees and recommended that the Finance Committee discuss the issue with Mark.

Relocation Update: **A letter and poster from the Relocation Committee were approved for presentation at the Annual Meeting.** The Committee reported on their research in funding for relocation.

Preparation for Annual Meeting: John Miller presented the President's letter to be read at the Annual Meeting. The Board formulated the Annual Meeting agenda.

Board To-do List:

Allison and Mia to give input on the minute editing decision if needed
The Board to create consensus regarding patronage dividend distribution
Mark may research Café losses
Keith/ the Finance Committee may discuss credit card usage with Mark

Agenda for October Meeting:

Policy Review
Patronage Dividend Follow-up Discussion
GM Report
Relocation Update
Welcome to Directors
Board Budget

Meeting Evaluation: The Directors remarked that the meeting was un-contentious, and joked that there was too much agreement! Chris Ramsey, on behalf of all owners, asked when the dividends will be distributed.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2011 6:30 - 9:00 PM Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room