

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting

May 18, 2010 Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room

Board Members Attending: Ruth Sullivan, Mia Strong, Becky McCall, Scott Howell, Keith Herklotz

Absent Board Member(s): Chip Angell, Henrietta Clews

Others Attending: Karen Doherty (General Manager), Steve Benson (facilitator), Julia Klein (minute taker), John Miller (owner)

Julia Klein, minute taker

Ruth Sullivan, task and decision keeper

Keith Herklotz, time keeper

Steve Benson, meeting facilitator

Approval of March 16 & April 20, 2010 meeting minutes:

Minutes were approved with no changes. Secretary will now send the draft minutes to the General Manager and the Facilitator in addition to all Directors. A Director requested that subsequent minutes be written with clear and complete sentence structure.

Time open to owners: An owner expressed concern regarding the fact that the Co-op's current health insurance policy does not cover all Co-op employees. He suggested a model for health insurance in which funds now spent on insurance could be kept within the Co-op to create its own nonprofit insurance company. He offered numbers to show how this model could allow for increased coverage and lower deductibles.

The Directors welcomed Keith Herklotz to the Board and thank him for his service.

Co-op Future:

Discussion centered on the directors' ideas for the Co-op's growth and expansion. It was suggested that the mission statement and ends policy be refined to focus the purpose and direction of the Co-op, thereby giving the GM more specific guidance in executing plans for the future.

Owners Forum Report

No report was prepared but minutes were submitted to the Directors prior to the meeting. Discussion followed regarding the value of the owners' forum in which differing opinions about its usefulness were expressed. Directors voiced appreciation for great ideas for the Co-op's future presented by owners. Directors discussed the importance of listening respectfully and attentively to issues and concerns raised at the owners' forums.

General Manager (GM) Report:

GM invited questions regarding her submitted report. GM recommended that the Board begin to formulate a relocation policy modeled after the template she sent to the directors. She suggested that a policy committee be formed to clarify the direction that the board

desires the GM to take. **GM will obtain an estimate from the electrician for the cost of installing the meat cooler.**

Monitoring Reports:

A2 Blue Hill Co-op Ends - **Proposal made and approved to rewrite A2. Scott will gather the opinions of the Directors and craft a revised policy by the next board meeting.** This revision will remove ambiguity regarding local and organic food sourcing and manufacturing, and give GM flexibility in implementing the policy.

D1 Financial Conditions - **Accepted as in compliance and accomplishment. Proposal made and approved to rework D1. Scott will rewrite the policy by the next board meeting.** The GM requested that the revisions to D1.2 make clear which of the Co-op bank accounts are restricted. A Director suggested that D1.8 be removed from the policy as long as the GM is within the debt to equity ratio. **D1.8 was tabled for further consideration in the future.**

B1 Code of Conduct - **Tabled for next meeting. Proposal made and approved to divide the monitoring of the board process policies among the directors. Each director will review a policy point and write the report on it. The reports are assigned as follows: Ruth - B1, Mia - B2, Keith - B3 with Becky's assistance, and Becky - B4 with Keith's assistance. The secretary will send sample archived reports to the directors.** The facilitator recommended that the reports be written with the following structure: a quotation of the policy, an interpretation of the policy, a report on compliance based upon the director's interpretation, and including an explanation with as much data as possible.

Proposal made and approved to monitor D4 in July.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Monitoring Reports: B1, B2, B3, and B4

Discussion of the removal of D1.8

Committee Reports (The committee chair should submit minutes to the board prior to the meeting.)

Discussion to Plan a Board Retreat (Scott will email information to the board.)

Evaluation of Meeting: All affirmed that the meeting was well-run and productive.

Next Meeting: June 15, 2010 6:30 - 9:00 PM Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room