

Blue Hill Co-op Annual Meeting

October 10, 2019, Blue Hill Co-op Cafe

Board Members Attending: Susan Snider, Deborah Evans, Tim Tunney, Jerome Lawther, Diane Bianco, Martha Shepherd (Staff Position)

Absent Board Member(s): Mia Strong, Edie Dunham, Jim Picariello, Aaron Dority

Others Attending: Julia Klein (Minute Taker), Kevin Gadsby (General Manager Dan Benson, Duncan Neuhauser, Donna Beninati, Julie Benson, Amanda Provencher, Diane Greenlaw,

Carol Ann McNeal, Kathleen Gadsby, Alice Slater, Matt Slater, Jim Labrecque, Jennifer Traub, George and Loren Palermo, Janelle Delicata, Paul McNulty, Michelle Clark, Joel Brotherton, Nancy Knowlton, Bob Salesi, Jan Carpenter, Carol Upton, Ed Miller, Kate O'Dell, Paul Kelly, Nigel Benson, Frank J. Bianco Sr., Michael Percy, Alan Wittenberg, Anne Walker, Tami Anne Autieni, Deborah Wiggs, Mary Hildebrand, Susan Jenkins, Diane H. Messer, Carson Sayers, Tim Seabrook, Brittany Bianco, Frank Bianco Jr. (Owners), Jennifer Coolidge (Ownership and Outreach Coordinator)

Julia Klein, minute taker

Susan Snider, meeting facilitator

Annual Meeting - Susan opened the meeting and introduced Kevin, board members and, board candidates. The first Annual Meeting in the new store was joyously celebrated! Susan introduced Deborah Hawkins with Co-operative Fund of New England, the lending organization who financially backed the new co-op. Deborah thanked the members for stepping up over and over with more and more support making lending funds possible. Susan thanked the members who made investments and donations and made relocation a reality. She went on to explain that the 2018 watchword was "relocation." It monopolized all board meetings and the Co-op's full attention. E.L. Shea was chosen as contractor in spring and they have been fabulous. Work continued with architect Bruce Stahnke and with the city to finalize design. Critical work continued on the pro forma and financials. Susan thanked Tim Tunney and Kevin Gadsby for their wisdom and work with the finances. She praised Kevin for his untiring leadership.

In August 2018 groundbreaking was approved. Ground was broken on September 10th. Fundraising was still in process. 2018 ended with funds \$100,000 short of the goal but with Kevin's hard work fundraising this and more were quickly raised. The solar array has been made possible by a generous donation and installation will begin the 1st or 2nd week of November providing 50-55% of the Co-op's electricity needs.

In board news the General Manager evaluation matrix was updated to the needs of the larger Co-op. The board welcomed Martha Shepherd as staff board member providing connection to the staff. On behalf of the Board of Directors Susan thanked owners for believing in the Co-op's mission and relocation project. She went on to welcome new board candidates Jen Traub and Paul McNulty. Finally,

Susan offered heartfelt thanks to the staff who made the move a reality. She shared her experience of being there during the 3 days when the Co-op was closed and witnessing a rock star amazing staff team packing the old store and setting up the new.

Q&A - Susan opened the floor to questions and comments. She noted that 99% of the ingredients served at the meeting are available for purchase at the Co-op.

Tim Seabrook reminisced about the tiny beginning of the Co-op with 16 founding members. Susan thanked Tim for his beautiful pictorial history of relocation which was displayed on the Café wall at opening. He was constantly on site documenting the project. Tim honored founding members at the meeting and spoke to their sense of pride in in the Co-op. He proposed that a photo be organized of the original members. Carson Sayers noted that the founding Co-op members prove that one person can make a difference!

Anne Walker stated that she is pleased to see the trees and bushes and asked if there is a plan in place for watering them daily until the ground freezes. Kevin noted that the plantings are thanks to a generous donation of \$25,000. A subsequent planting will occur in spring.

Tim invited all to attend monthly board meetings occurring the 3rd Tuesday of each at the café at 6:30. Susan highlighted that the café is up and running, beautiful images from Kipp Hopkins are on the walls but it is just the beginning of what the café will be. She went on to encourage owners to leave their email addresses in order to stay updated. Also, ideas and requests can be directed to Jennifer Coolidge, ownership and outreach coordinator. Jen Traub asked if Jennifer sees a pattern in the requests received. Jennifer responded that yes, there often is. She and Kevin work to respond quickly to requests make changes when possible.

Diane Messer stated that she moved to the area about a year ago and asked for more information about the board and number of directors. Susan responded with details and directed her to the bylaws.

Bob Salesi proposed a toast to all owners, past and present, founding members, directors. Applause ensued! Susan celebrated the increase in membership from 1,300 6 years ago to 2,000 today! She credited this success to Kevin and to the community who believes in local commerce. Local sales will increase across the new store. \$1.2 million in local goods were sold in 2018! The Co-op is continuing to grow and support the community. Celebratory eating and drinking finished the meeting!

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julia Klein

