

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting

August 20, 2013 Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room

Board Members Attending: Mia Strong, Marge May, Richard Paget, Keith Herklotz, Jim Picariello, Aaron Dority, Hadley Friedman, Kristyn LaPlante

Absent Board Member(s): Laura Livingston, Diane Bianco, Jerome Lawther

Others Attending: Mark Deeny (General Manager), Julia Klein (minute taker)

Julia Klein, minute taker

Aaron Dority, task and decision keeper

Mia Strong, meeting facilitator, time keeper

Approval of Minutes: **The July 16, 2013 Minutes were approved as amended to include Diane Bianco's name to the absent list.**

Time Open to Owners: No Owners were present.

Conflict of Interest Forms: **All Directors present signed and submitted Conflict of Interest forms.**

GM Report: Mark took questions from the Board regarding his report. Richard asked about seasonal differences between summer and winter in the Co-op. Mark responded with daily sales comparisons noting the significant drop after Labor Day. Keith asked about staff excitement and August pace in the Store. The board discussed contributing factors. Jim commented that Ownership numbers are up by a net 200 households in the last three years. Directors briefly discussed what's working and commented that Ownership seems more valuable now than it did. Hadley suggested showing local dollars spent on the receipt and Jim recommended flashing the amount saved year to date on the screen at checkout as well as on the receipt.

Apartment Space Use: The Board checked in with Mark about workability of the new office space. Keith inquired about communication between the two floors. Mark responded that intercom and phones are currently in use while he works on creating voicemail boxes for all staff. Jim suggested purchasing a snap-together walk-in freezer or refrigerator to be installed on the back porch. The unit could be moved and used at the new Co-op in the future. Mia shared a grant opportunity from Maine Rural Partners which could help with purchasing more efficient appliances now, which could be used at the new location as well. Mia will forward information to the Board.

Relocation Committee: Aaron reported on the Committee's research this month and announced their recommendation to hire Bruce Stahnke to draft Relocation plans. He explained that the Committee received proposals from four different local architects to compare with Bruce's proposal. Each architect, including Bruce, was interviewed regarding their work and experience and subsequently evaluated using a ranking system on a list of qualities. After developing a good sense for what each architect had to offer, the Committee found Bruce to be overwhelmingly in the lead in all aspects while his

pricing was competitive. Each Committee member expressed their enthusiasm for Bruce's presentation noting his experience, his commitment to green building, his knowledge of the possible pitfalls, and his consideration of the future in creating a master plan. Through his work on the Relocation Committee they have found him to be good at what he does, honest, flexible and easy to work with. **Mia proposed that the Board accept the Relocation Committee's recommendation to hire Bruce Stahnke for \$26,000 to be paid out of Co-op reserves. Mia will contact Bruce. This passed unanimously.** Much celebration followed!

Marge relayed a question from two concerned Co-op Owners as to whether the Board is absolutely committed to the South Street property, and if they would reconsider a town center location such as Merrill and Hinckley. The Board responded that M&H has been considered by a very deliberate process but was found to be unworkable. Also discussed was the fact that hiring an architect allows the Board to nail down numbers for fundraising and explore possibilities and the feasibility of relocation before committing to the project. Hadley pointed out that the drawings will likely quell fears of the community and Aaron urged the Board to convey to Owners that Bruce is sensitive to sprawl. Keith encouraged directors to expand their thoughts about fundraising. Conversation turned to fundraising.

Odds and Ends:

Mark will be unable to attend the next meeting. Laura was milking a cow and could not attend the meeting. The Outreach Committee will not be organizing the Annual Picnic this October. The Board discussed alternatives such as a customer appreciation day with grilling on the Co-op porch or December gathering at the Mainescape greenhouse.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

Board Seat Opening (Do your homework!)
Buying Policy
Finance Committee
Relocation

Meeting Evaluation: Progress! Pizza and beer greased the wheels!

Due Date for the Board Packet: Items for the Board Packet will be due on Saturday September 7, 2013.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 17, 2013 6:30- 9:00 PM Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julia Klein