

**Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting**  
July 16, 2013 Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room

Board Members Attending: Mia Strong, Richard Paget, Keith Herklotz, Laura Livingston, Jerome Lawther, Marge May, Kristyn LaPlante

Absent Board Member(s): Jim Picariello, Diane Bianco

Others Attending: Mark Deeny (General Manager), Julia Klein (minute taker), Debra Evans (Owner, Bagaduce Farm)

Julia Klein, minute taker

Marge May, task and decision keeper

Mia Strong, meeting facilitator, time keeper

Approval of Minutes: **The June 18, 2013 Minutes were approved pending the correction of Kristyn LaPlante's name.**

Time Open to Owners: Debra Evans spoke as an Owner and local farmer. She prefaced her remarks by noting that she is not interested in selling meat at the Co-op. She expressed her concern that the Co-op has missed an opportunity to sell truly local meat by carrying Bianco Sausage. She requested full disclosure about origins, processing and quality of the meat be readily available to customers. This would clarify whether the meat being sold by a local source is actually produced locally using ethical practices. Debra then shared her vision of organizing with several local farmers to process meat for the Co-op on an annual basis. The Board expressed enthusiasm for her idea and discussed details with her. Marge recommended that Debra write a Newsletter article.

GM Report: Comments focused on renting the downstairs apartment space in the Co-op building. The Board agreed Mark's arrangement with the landlord seems reasonable and manageable - satisfying needs without making a big dent in income. Mark briefed the Board on his plans for walk-in cooler renovations to the back of the building. He updated the Board on soup sales reporting that sales are down 3% from last summer. During the summer months, soup has been sold in packages that customers take away or heat the soup in the café microwave. The caldron will be back in September. Cheese sales are up 19% due to better display. In response to a question from Keith, Mark stated that he feels good about this season and the level of experience in the Staff.

UNFI Costs: The Board discussed the UNFI design for the store interior and agreed that the plans seem comprehensive for a good price. The Relocation Committee will talk to UNFI and verify that the numbers will work with the exterior architects. Aaron recommended checking UNFI's references. Richard asked if the Committee had talked with Bruce Stahnke. Aaron responded that they have and are in the process of reviewing several architects as well. The Committee expects to have recommendations by the August meeting.

Board Seat Open: The Board discussed the 3 year Board seat left by Allison and will bring names and possibilities to the August meeting. Directors agreed that candidates

should have financing and fundraising experience. Aaron reminded the Board to look at Committees as another avenue for bringing in skills. Mia reminded the Board that Committee members don't need to be Owners and urged the Board to recruit new members. Suggestions were raised to look for experience in capital campaigns and also in local food production such as farming or fishing. Jerome suggested looking for candidates who are connected to the fundraising target community, while hiring a fundraiser to do the work. Richard suggested planning of fundraising events such as a black tie dinner on a farm.

Finance Committee: **Richard proposed and the Board approved changing the Finance Committee's description to avoid redundancy with the GM Report and be more useful in the relocation process.** Mark recommended focusing Committee time on Co-op finances oversight, securing the fiscal sponsor arrangement, member loan structure, and member equity generation options. Aaron recommended working closely with the Relocation Committee and asked to be put on the Finance Committee email list. Mia will resend the Finance Committee Charter for review

Buying Policy and Local Food: The Board brainstormed at length to develop ideas for putting the Buying Policy to work in the store. Discussion centered on applying values such as local sourcing, GMO labeling, cruelty-free and organic, pesticide and chemical free. Mark and Aaron expressed concern that to apply the policy and to provide full disclosure of food sources would unduly burden Staff. **The Board agreed to form a small ad hoc Committee to rework the buying policy and tighten its language. Mark, Laura, Kristyn, and Jerome will start the work and report next meeting.**

A Purchasing Committee was proposed which would create a structure in operations to evaluate buying choices and would consist of Directors, Staff, and Working Owners. The Board expressed need to build connections with small local vendors, identifying and exploring obstacles to sourcing locally. Mia will pressure UNFI to carry Non-GMO Project products. The Board agreed that there is a delicate balance between food purity and affordable pricing as was reflected in the recent Owner Survey.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

Buying Policy Update

Use of Apartment Space for Meeting

Board Seat

UNFI Design/Architect Recommendation (Relocation Committee)

Meeting Evaluation: Good stuff... for a hot night in July. Stellar!

Due Date for the Board Packet: Items for the Board Packet will be due on Saturday August 10, 2013.

Next Meeting: August 20, 2013 6:30- 9:00 PM Blue Hill Public Library, Howard Room.  
Pizza and beer!

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julia Klein