

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting
Sept 25, 2025, Blue Hill Co-op Cafe

Board Members Attending: Jo Barrett, Cheryl Boulet, Jenny Brillhart, Susan Brookman, Aaron Dority, Deborah Evans, Anne Gilchrist, Annie Silver, Jennifer Traub.

Absent Board Member(s):

Others Attending: Jennifer Wahlquist Coolidge (Ownership & Outreach Coordinator), Leslie Linder

Annie Silver, minute taker
Aaron Dority, meeting facilitator, timekeeper
Jennifer Traub, tasks and decisions

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved by consensus

Tasks and Decisions Check-In

Task: Aaron will write a short thanks to go in harvest herald to recognize Tim Tunney's service. Jo will help review.

Approval of Minutes

Susan moved to approve the August 28, 2025 BOD minutes with edits. Jen seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

Open Owner Time

Jennifer Wahlquist Coolidge introduced Leslie Linder from the Next Step program. The program will be October's Change for Good recipient. Leslie gave a background on the program which is a resource for domestic violence victims. They serve Hancock and Washington counties, and offer a shelter, a 24/7 hotline, legal assistance, support groups, supportive housing, and community education.

Jennifer Wahlquist Coolidge thanked the board for its service and praised it for being effective and responsive.

She enthusiastically presented upcoming events: Ayurveda-ish for everyone (Sept. 28), and open mics (Oct. 11 and 29)

She shared information from the Cooperative Maine Business Alliance including a 2 day in-person Leadership Foundations intensive for managers, shift supervisors, department heads and board members (Oct 16-17)

She shared that the CCMA (Consumer Cooperative Management Association) conference will be May 28-30 in Tacoma, WA. These conferences are very impactful, and a great way to network with colleagues nationwide.

Jennifer shared that she had completed her St Mary's University Certificate in Cooperative Management course. She encouraged all board members to come talk about it, do readings together, etc.

She shared that there will be a co-op membership drive in Oct.

Board Monitoring

C8 Governance investment –Jo shared her review of C8 and began a discussion about training and upping our game. There was enthusiastic discussion about the value of trainings (including webinars and conferences) as a way to network. Doing an annual financial audit/ review is also educational for the board. **A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Jenny for each board member to set an intention to engage in at least one training (skill-building and/or networking) opportunity at least once per 3-year term and report back to the Board. The motion unanimously carried.**

Jenny will check resources for New England/Maine cooperative trainings.

There was excitement to invite a relevant-to-all-boards speaker to the co-op and invite other local boards. Maybe Jennifer Wahlquist Coolidge would be interested in organizing this sort of event? **Anne moved to accept C8 as in compliance. Annie seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.**

Finance Committee –

Jen shared notes from the recent finance committee meeting. Lawyer Jeff Spaulding was at the meeting. Certain bylaws were discussed which are problematic and need to be reworded. These include defining net savings and the allocation of net losses to members. There was discussion as to how to proceed, and if a lawyer with co-op specific expertise might be able to better make the changes. An ideal timeline would be to have a vote by the membership on changes to these bylaws before April.

Cheryl reported that the financials look good.

Strategic Leadership Committee–

There was an overview of the recent Plastics Reduction Forum (held Sept. 9). There was discussion about ways to reduce plastics, including encouraging the local municipalities to accommodate for recycling at the waste facilities.

Ends discussion. Three ideas were presented to replace the word “honest” in the current ends statement. A completely revised ends statement was also presented. There was a discussion, a suggestion to all think on it, and a plan to discuss next month.

Marketing Coordinator–

Kipp is planning to step down at the end of the month. Jo mentioned that the marketing coordinator is crucial for elections. She reported that Kevin is proceeding with the hiring process.

Jenny left at 7:40

Housekeeping–

Board members need to update their bios for the new poster

Recess to Executive Session: 7:46

Executive Session - personnel

Return to Open Session: 8:10

Meeting Adjourned: 8:11

Tasks

Task: Jenny to find out Harvest Herald deadline and let Aaron know

Task: Jenny will check resources for New England/Maine cooperative trainings

Task: Board budget and Ends Statement on deck for October agenda

Task: Aaron to ask Kevin to reach out to Maine cooperative lawyer about bylaws questions.

Cheryl to ask colleague for Bernstein Shur contact.

Task: Communicate Board bio changes to Kipp by October 2.

Task: Jen to work with Annie on updating GM review chart for Board review before October meeting.

Task: Aaron and Anne to send draft RFP to Board.

Agenda for October Meeting

GM Monitoring B2- Planning and Budgeting- Kevin

B1 Financial Conditions Q3-Kevin

Strategic Plan- Kevin

Discussion of Ends rewording- SLC committee

RFP to GM

D1 Unity of Control- Susan

Due Date for the Board Packet: Items for the Board Packet will be due on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2025, 6:00-7:00 Blue Hill Co-op, Café.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Annie Silver

