

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2026, Blue Hill Co-op Café

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

Absent Board Members: Deborah Evans

Others Attending: Jennifer Wahlquist (Ownership and Outreach Coordinator), Leslie Clapp (Downeast Audubon)

Sarah Pebworth, minute taker

Aaron Dority, meeting facilitator, timekeeper

Annie Silver, tasks and decisions

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

Approval of Agenda

VOTE: Anne moved to approve the agenda, Jo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tasks & Decisions

Approved agenda, minutes, board monitoring D3 as in compliance, B8 Board Logistical Support and B9 GM Succession, co-op budget for 2026

Task—Kevin to update redemption figures, statement of cash flows for budget

Decision—updated 2026 calendar for November and December, approve GM comp. proposal, agreement to recognize Kevin’s exemplary work in securing Employee Retention Credit funds

Approval of Minutes

VOTE: Jennifer moved to approve the Dec. 11, 2025, minutes, Jenny seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Owner Time and Change for Good

Jennifer Wahlquist introduced Leslie Clapp, [Downeast Audubon](#) (DA)

Leslie: has been president since 2003 of volunteer board with 9 members. All of Hancock County is served by DA, 496 current memberships. The mission of the Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon (MA) is “to educate and engage the people of Hancock County, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of local communities and their natural environment.” There are 7 chapters in MA. Change for Good donations will be used for a new program called Young Birders Club, led by James Longo, track coach at GSA who is a birder. He takes students out every Sunday, looking for birds. Each outing costs about \$200. This fledgling program has visited 80 locations already, in just 6 months. Leslie enjoys sharing her knowledge. She’s been a birder since her 30s. She has extensive gardens with bird habitats that are open to the public a few times a year. Leslie brought fall and winter DA newsletters. DA offers all sorts of conservation and education ventures.

Jennifer Wahlquist reviewed upcoming educational opportunities and events.

Feb. 25: International Centre for Co-operative Management at Saint Mary's University, free webinar "The Business Advantage of Co-operative Values"

March 21: Neighboring Food Co-op Association—annual meeting, Springfield, MA

April 11: Principle Six Conference, titled "Resilient Communities through Cooperative Solutions," in Auburn, Maine; all cooperatives

May 28-30: Consumer Cooperative Management Association, Tacoma, WA

As education and training is part of co-op model, Jennifer W. wants to make the most of available classes, especially as many are free and of high quality.

Classes and Events

Jan. 28 Open Mic

Feb. 1 Nourishing the Heart

Feb. 4 Guided Chocolate Tasting with Equal Exchange

Feb. 7 Art Reception—Lise Williams

Feb. 8 Table for One-ish

Feb. 15 Herbs to Nourish Frayed Nerves

Feb. 19 Can You Outsmart a Cold

Feb. 25 Open Mic

March Staff Art Show—seeking submissions

March 15 All About Adaptogens

Board Monitoring

D4, Monitoring GM Performance—Annie said that we're in compliance but noted the board uses just one method of input—GM reports to the board. Cheryl noted that Audrey has given a valuable external report, internal control assessment. **VOTE: Jo moved to accept D4 as in compliance, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Finance Committee Update

No report. Meeting canceled this week. Next meeting will be Feb. 20.

Strategic Leadership Committee

Annie reviewed the mission: Engage members, staff, and board members in creative ways. For the past three years, a chili cook off has been held. Various ideas were discussed (different time of year, food, or frequency) and Susan offered to help.

TASK: add Susan to Strategic Leadership Committee email.

NFCA membership

Aaron said the Neighboring Food Co-op Association has invited him to join. Aaron noted as he is finishing his term in 2027 perhaps another board member would like to join this or Principle Six (though this is broader). He asked if members think our board should participate in NFCA.

Generally joining seems like a good idea. It might be good to have a recently retired board member, as board members have a lot to do already. Joining could be good for networking and helpful in order to find out how other co-op boards handle certain things.

Aaron decided he could ask if alumni, rather than current board members, would be welcome. If someone is interested, they should reach out to him before the end of the month.

TASK: Aaron will report back with more information after contacting George.

Annual Meeting

Jo, Anne, and Cheryl will be up for re-election. Jo and Anne will be leaving at end of their terms.

Discussed identifying candidates for the ballot. Members can also petition to be added to the ballot. To be considered, people must be owners for at least six months and membership must be in their name (not spouse's).

Aaron is happy to continue serving as president through the end of his term. As Deborah (current vice-president) doesn't want to be president maybe she would step back and someone else could serve as vice-president.

Jenny will be resigning from the board, maybe before the annual meeting, as she is traveling a lot and her attention is needed elsewhere. As Jenny's term runs through 2027, a person could be appointed to finish the term.

TASK: Board members should email possible candidates (assuring they are interested and eligible) to Jo and Deborah.

At the next meeting in executive session, names can be discussed; last possible date is fourth week of April.

Cheryl asked about deadline for bylaw changes for the ballot as finance committee is working on bylaws at its next meeting.

TASK: Jo will look up deadline for bylaw changes for the ballot.

Discussed the annual meeting. Suggested that the promotion could be more focused on food and so forth with the annual meeting aspect downplayed. Food will continue to be available during the meeting portion of the meeting. Suggestions included live music and an outdoor event, a barbecue.

TASK: Anne and Jenny to meet with Jennifer Wahlquist in the next month or so to discuss annual meeting, food, and need for a tent.

Agenda

C1, Governing Style (Cheryl)

Patronage Dividends

BOD Candidate Vetting

B3, Asset Protection (GM)

VOTE: Jenny moved to adjourn the meeting, Susan seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:17pm

Due Date for Board Packet: Thurs., Feb. 19

Next Board Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 26, 6-7:30pm, Blue Hill Co-op Café