

Blue Hill Coop Board Meeting

March 26, 2026, Blue Hill Co-op Café

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

Others Attending: Kevin Gadsby (General Manager)

Sarah Pebworth, minute taker

Aaron Dority, meeting facilitator, timekeeper

Annie Silver, tasks and decisions

Meeting called to order 6:02pm

Approval of Agenda

Finance Committee Update deleted

Patronage Dividends deleted

VOTE: Jo moved to approve the agenda as amended, Deborah seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tasks & Decisions

TASK: B1 report is moved to March meeting and will include final inventory adjustment for December.

TASK: Kevin will consider Rob Clapp from MGB when seeking insurance quotes.

TASK: Keven to express Board gratitude to café staff

TASK: Kevin to see that Cheryl acquires permission to add documents to the drive

TASK: Finance Comm. to provide Deborah and Jo proposed text, rationale for bylaw changes for ballot

TASK: Aaron to talk with Jennifer Wahlquist about the Change for Good presentations

Approval of February Minutes

VOTE: Jen moved to approve the Feb. 22, 2026 minutes as amended, Jenny seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Re-Approval of January Minutes by consensus

Open Owner Time

Maine Co-op Cafe, March 29 at Damariscotta Lake Farm, Jefferson—Kevin, Jennifer Wahlquist, Annie planning to attend P6 Conference, April 11, Lewiston, Kevin, Jennifer Wahlquist, Naomi (new front-end manager) attending

TASK: Jennifer Wolf will begin a document that all can add a few bullet points of what is gained at conferences or trainings to share information

Jen Wolf attended the Neighboring Food Co-op Association (NFCA) annual meeting in Greenfield, MA, with Jennifer Wahlquist. She thought it was a well run, effective meeting. There was a presentation on goal and metrics, with slideshow that Jen will share with the board. Keynote speaker: Doug O'Brien, CEO of [NCBA CLUSA](#) (National Cooperative Business Association). His message was that cooperatives have resilience, his call to action was to get to know your local representatives—help them understand how co-ops work. In the small group sessions, Jen's topic was board members and issues, and they discussed "How to infuse more passion into board meetings?" which doesn't seem like a big issue for our co-op. She also attended a workshop on meeting with financial service providers, pertinent because we have a refinance coming up. Other types of co-ops were there, also. A distributor challenged co-ops to consider a cooperative distributor.

TASK: Jennifer Wolf will share slideshow from NFCA annual meeting

Jennifer Wahlquist has agreed to join NFCA board, which will strengthen ties to NFC.

Discussion regarding produce sellers wondering about pricing policies. Sellers are encouraged to speak to produce manager, Vinnie, or to Kevin, who noted produce pricing often has variation.

Discussed creating parking signs prohibiting parking along incoming lane, because that creates problems for emergency personnel.

TASK: Kevin will look into No Parking signage to go along parking lot driveway

Board Monitoring Reports

C2, The Board's Job, Deborah shared her review and assessment that the Board is in compliance.

VOTE: Anne moved to accept C2 as in compliance, Jo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

GM Monitoring Reports

Ends Report, and B1, 4th Q financials

Supplemental report—explains power outage, updates in café, waste.

Sales of organic and local sales jumped quite a bit this year, over previous years, perhaps because of pricing of Field Day products, increase in local products, customer demand.

Discussed customer comments and Kevin's responses.

VOTE: Deborah moved to accept B1 as in compliance, Annie seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Jo moved to accept Ends Report as in compliance, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Café Update

Café manager position likely filled, visiting in April, possible June start date. New manager will work with consultant for one week. The café is starting to see changes from hiring consultant taking affect and strengthening margin dollars. Café will be rolling out new line of smoothies, new grab and go and hot bar items. Kevin is planning to send out a public statement regarding changes to come soon.

Annual celebration/board nomination/petition timeline/ballot items

Annual celebration on June 25, 5pm-on: Anne: planning a cookout (burgers/veggie, sides, chips), possibly live music, likely on patio so looking for tent, possibly dessert inside. Asking Board members to arrive early to help set up.

An email marketing Board recruitment will be sent soon; poster coming out for annual meeting

April 16—Board member photos and bios due, if no changes—let Jo know

April 26—FYI, petitions to be on the ballot are due

April 30—at board meeting need final approval of all ballot items

TASK: Bylaw changes text will be reviewed and approved via email by April 2.

TASK: Anne/Jenny/Susan continue annual celebration planning including finding a tent, band?, finalizing food plan

TASK: All: By April 16, submit new photos and bios (or a note if ok to reuse existing ones) to Deborah and Jo

Executive Session (Board nomination)

TASK: Deborah and Jo to follow up with Michelle Keyo.

Executive Session, entered at 7:19pm, ended at 7:33pm

VOTE: Jo moved to nominate Brandon Rieff and Catherine Nevin to the ballot, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Cheryl moved to adjourn the meeting, Anne seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:34pm

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TASK: Deborah and Jo to follow up with Michelle Keyo regarding joining Board prior to April 30 meeting

TASK: Everyone who will still be on the board after the annual meeting should consider mentoring a new board member. One-on-one meetings with new board members, then continue to be in contact/available for questions.

Due Date for Board Packet: April 27

Next Meeting Date: April 30, 2026 (note—5th Thursday in April)

Next meeting Agenda Items:

Board monitoring: C3, Agenda Planning, Jen

GM monitoring, B1, Financial Conditions, Q1