

Plainfield Co-op
Annual Membership Meeting

Twin Valley Senior Center,
4583 Route 2, East Montpelier

Saturday, April 16, 2016

3- 5 pm, potluck following

Agenda:

- **Music** by Ben Koenig - commencing with the "Internationale" and culminating with "The Plainfield Song"; members in attendance sang along.

- **President Report** - Gail discussed overall strategic planning process and introduced agenda. She appreciated various constituents of the Co-op community and acknowledged former Co-op neighbor, Kerrin McCadden, who upon preparing to sell her home, realized that the Co-op was assuming, as was she, that part of her property belonged to the Co-op. When a survey revealed otherwise, she generously deeded it over to the Co-op before selling.

- **Treasurer Report** - Bob reviewed overall Financials. Overall Co-op still doing well and showing consistent increase in sales over the last several years. Due to unexpected expenses (costs of living and under-budgeted staff hours largely due to transition of staffing, profit significantly dropped from previous years. This will not happen again due to new awareness of this potential and careful watching of staff hours. The need for the increase of hours does not seem likely. Michael recommended the possible consideration of new/additional indicators going forward that would not, necessarily, be defined in a capitalistic model (happiness, satisfaction, fidelity to ethics). This spawned an engaging conversation about a variety of different measurements that could be used to define success.
Bob also announced what the dividend would be this year, and why it would be lower this year than last year.

- **MC Report** - Karen reported that last year was a challenging one for the Management Collective as it reorganized to replace two collective members who moved on to other things. Responsibilities have been successfully reshuffled and we feel confident moving into 2016. The Management looks forward to working with the the Board, Strategic Planning Committee, and members at large as we. Make plans for our future. Karen

- **By-Law Amendment to Allow other Co-ops to be Members:** After a robust debate among the attending members that explored various aspects of this agenda item, the proposed By-Law Amendment was discussed and agreed to by consensus: Section 2.01. Eligibility for Membership

- A. A person may become a member of this cooperative by: (a) completing a membership form; and (b) contributing a fair share of the capital needs of this cooperative by purchasing one or more member equity shares each year until the number of shares comprising a full share has been purchased.
 - B. ***Another cooperative may be a member of this cooperative upon approval of the Board and shall have one vote. The Board shall determine the rights, fees, and benefits of membership for cooperative organizations, if any.***
- **Outgoing Board Member Appreciation** - Joseph acknowledged the generous and valuable contributions of outgoing Co-op Board members **Art Chickering** and **Scott Harris** (who were not in attendance). All wildly applauded.
 - **Strategic Planning Report and Survey Results** (see powerpoint)
<http://plainfieldcoop.com/documents/2016%20Strategic%20Plan%20Presentation%20.pdf>

Strategic Planning Task Force members presented the four priorities:

1. Develop a master plan for the building - Dawn
2. Become more welcoming to non-members and community members with less money - Ryan
3. Address food insecurity - Michael
4. Involve members as more than customers - Bob

Butcher paper with four priority areas were made available for comments/questions to be posted by attendees.

Bob announced the winner of the drawing (from those who entered their names through completing a survey as part of Strategic Planning Process)

- **Election for Board Vacancies** - Nominee **Giordana Checchi** introduced himself and was unanimously elected to the Board. No others who were present nominated self or others for the Board. There exists at least one vacancy.
- **Discuss Endorsement of Energy Independent Vermont** - it was decided that due to time constraints, this discussion would be postponed to another time.

Delicious Potluck meal followed