

Minutes
Plainfield Cooperative Annual Meeting
September 20, 2020

The Annual Meeting for 2020 was held at the Plainfield Rec Field on September 20, 2020. The meeting had been postponed from earlier in the year because of limitations on public gatherings to prevent spread of COVID-19. The meeting was outside, and seating for participants was socially distanced. Forty member/owners attended the meeting. Paula Emery facilitated the meeting.

Paula expressed appreciation and recognition for Co-op staff, volunteers, and members, and for food donations.

The President, Treasurer, and General Manager gave reports, which are posted on the Co-op website.

A quorum was declared. Directors were elected to the board on a single ballot, with two abstentions, zero nays, and all others voting in the affirmative. The Directors who were elected are

- Cat Klarich, for a first full term, 2020-2023
- Rose Paul, for a first full term, 2020-2023.
- Roseanne Scotta, for a first term, to fill a vacancy, which ends in 2022.
- Shana Siegel, for a first term, 2020-2022.
- Liz Bicknell, for a first full term, 2020-2023.

Changes to the by-laws were approved unanimously as follows:

- In Section 1.01 "*Plainfield Co-op*" is changed to "*Plainfield Cooperative*".
- In Section 4.01 the following words are deleted: *Collective managers or any person applying to be a Collective Manager of this cooperative may not be directors, except for any employee who is a director at the time these Bylaws are enacted may serve out the term limits* and replaced with the following words: *Employees or any person applying to be an employee of this cooperative may not be directors.*

Further, in Section 4.01 reference to Section 4.01 is changed to 4.14.

Further, the words "*Board members*" are replaced by "*Directors.*"

Further, the following words are deleted: *At the 2010 annual meeting the members shall elect two directors to serve three year terms, to expire in 2013 and one to fill a four-year term, to expire in 2014. Thereafter all terms shall be three years, with three directors elected in 2012, two in 2013 and two in 2014 and thenceforth in the same sequence. Board members* and replaced with the following words: *Directors serving more than one consecutive term may serve again after one year off the board.*

- Section 4.04 is amended by deleting the words “45 days.”
- Section 4.14 is amended by inserting the word “regular” in the second sentence after the word “total.” and by deleting the words “as a Collective Manager” both places where they appear in this section.

Les Snow and Paula Emery led a discussion of the results of an online member-owner survey conducted in late August and early September and completed by 69 member/owners. Following is a summary of their remarks:

Additional Member-Owner Engagement

- *Would you become more engaged with the co-op?* half (51%) of respondents responded positively, a great majority of them (46% of all respondents) said it depended on the task and the time commitment. Of the remaining 49% of respondents, most (27% of all respondents) said they are already involved as much as they want to be and the remainder (22% of all respondents) said they’re not interested/ available.

Changes to Support Additional Member-Owner Engagement

- *Summary of actions member-owners suggested that the co-op take so that member-owners could participate more in the co-op.*
- Operations
 - Provide a list of short- and long-term volunteer opportunities.
 - We need to create and maintain a list of what the needs are. The list should include an estimate of the time and skill requirements.
 - I think the member coordinator position could help engage members, especially during this crazy time. There is a lot of skill in the community; seems like members could really pitch in on building maintenance and repairs which could save the co-op thousands
 - Do things aimed at the larger Plainfield community as well
 - More commitment to organic/local/etc. More commitment to affordable/standard foods/etc.
- Governance
 - Do things aimed at the larger Plainfield community as well
 - Return calls. Follow up

Members who were present at the Annual Meeting were asked to work individually or in a small group to imagine a news headline in the Times Argus, VT Digger, Montpelier Bridge 3-5

years from now highlighting something that is different for our community due to an initiative by the Plainfield Cooperative and its member owners that showed our concern for the community. Following are the headlines that members wrote and shared with the group.

Free monthly community dinners with local entertainment draw crowd at Co-op.

Set up a consulting team and buying club for electric cars.

Plainfield Co-op establishes food shelf.

Plainfield Co-op opens a community cooperative bakery.

Plainfield Co-op establishes Organic Agriculture Investment Fund.

Plainfield Co-op pioneers a resilient locally rooted food system, aimed to serve all.

Co-op has increased nutritional health of Central Vermont.

Community Center is open!

During the 2020 pandemic the Plainfield Co-op stepped up to feed the community and has continued to find new ways to contribute.

As You Give Shall You Receive: The Little Co-op that Could.

In an almost magical and mystical way, the Co-op followed the principle of "it is in giving that you receive." The Co-op did the most radical thing. It decided to each year give 10% of profits to an organization or good cause that people chose at the annual meeting. This inspired a huge growth in membership because people loved knowing that when they shopped at the Co-op, they were doing good at the same time. One year it was an environmental organization. Another year it was racial justice

A Hubbard squash, a pot of chrysanthemums, and a \$20 credit on a gift card were awarded to the holders of the three winning raffle tickets.

And, as the sun was setting, the Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Falk

Note taker