

**Co-op Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 15 , 2015**  
**6:30 pm at the Community Center**

**Present:** Bob Fancher, Joseph Gainza, Art Chickering, Gail Falk, Karla Haas Moskowitz, Jeannine DeWald, Karen Starr

**Consent Agenda:** October Minutes

**Committee/Miscellaneous Reports**

- **Building** -- Flood plain issues, Fire marshal updates, Security

**Fire Marshall updates:** Waiting on notification as to whether Fire Marshall granted extension for compliance issues. Building committee will follow up. Next meeting after last week of December after Christmas. Jeannine will follow up with Kathleen. Kathleen is responsible for follow-up while she is here. Jeannine will let us know who on the MC is responsible for follow-up after Kathleen leaves.

**Security:** Research on security cameras as effective in preventing crime or increasing safety is inconclusive. Gail visited Hunger Mountain and noticed security cameras are throughout the store. MC considering 2-3 cameras, but is clear this may not be at all what is planned or desired. It is felt further discussion is needed. Soliciting support from the Plainfield Select Board may be helpful (e.g., Neighborhood Watch).

**Flood Plain:** Gail, Bob Fancher, Allen Banbury, and Dawn Fancher, attended a meeting with Karen Storey, Zoning Administrator. There is a new map of the River Corridor and at a certain time Plainfield will put restrictions on building on the Flood Plain. The Co-op is on the flood plain. Two options: The first option is to call the State (the woman in the department in charge of this to see if Co-op is *really* on the Flood Plain) Second option is to go ahead and request a permit in the next 1-3 months before Plainfield adopts these new rules and Karen Storey says she will approve it. Then we must start work in one year after permit is issued, finish in three years, or ask for extension. Also the Co-op is a historic building and there may be some additional steps. Alan will check with State. Ad hoc group comprised of representatives from Building Committee, MC, Board, and Strategic Planning committee will be formed, meet, and decide if Co-op will request the permit. Ad hoc committee members were named: Allen Banbury, Bob, Joseph, Dawn, Nancy Ellen, and Sam Clark.

**Another facility concern:** Jeannine reported that the constable visited the store and suggested that a second egress is needed behind the cash register counter in case cashier needs to move out of that area of the store for safety reasons. Building Committee to follow up.

- **Treasurer report** -- November numbers are not in. Bob is working with auditor to schedule financial review. Scheduled for Dec/Jan..
- **Communications/Newsletter report** -- next meeting will be scheduled in January. Newsletter and monthly specials are going out smoothly. In the future may need to reformat to be mobile device friendly.

### **Strategic Planning - Updates**

Strategic Planning Committee met and discussed ways to connect with/survey non-members to see what improvements can be made to Co-op that would also encourage increased membership. (See minutes of Strategic Planning group).

### **Policy Governance Calendar for 2016**

Policy Governance training for new board and staff scheduled for April, 2016.

Joseph recommended we include article by Ann Hoyt on cooperatives.

**Link Report** - Nothing new

**MC Monitoring** -- End 3 Sustainability--all commended report.

B2 Planning and Budgeting--B2 is late and out of compliance, but it will be provided by end of December 2015. Bob will sit with Finance Committee after budget is developed.

**Date for spring Annual Meeting** - April 16, 2016 at 3:00 pm (Joseph will reserve 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm including set up/clean up) at Twin Valley Senior Center (will confirm with Rita).

**Board recruiting** - Bob reports that Lorraine Checchi is very interested. She will be asked to submit photo and statement to go in the newsletter, and invited to the next Board meeting. We need to find out whether Scott contacted Marge Christie.

### **Should we endorse Energy Independent Vermont Platform?**

Laura Mistretta, field organizer with VPIRG, joined the Board meeting to present information about the Energy Independent Vermont Coalition platform.

Three guiding principles:

- Reduce carbon emissions
- Do so in a way creates jobs/develops economy
- and equitable for low-income Vermonters

Laura discussed two relevant bills:

**H412:** State will levy a tax on fossil fuel distributors. Phasing in a price on carbon pollution starting \$10/ton. Money would be distributed in two ways. 90% of revenue generated given back to Vermont individuals and business into tax cuts-credit-rebates and cut State sales tax (projected 65-70 million dollars for State). 10% goes into an Energy Independence Fund managed by a Board with a purpose to invest in programs that support Vermonters to reduce dependence on fossil fuels (e.g., low income weatherization).

**H395:** Similar to H412, but starts with a higher price on carbon pollution.

Robust conversation followed.

Board will discuss and make a decision regarding whether it will support Co-op endorsement at another meeting or via email.

**Board Monitoring** -- D4 MC Evaluation -- in compliance.

**8:35 Adjourn**

*Dessert and chat*

*Meetings of the Plainfield Co-op Board are open to our members. To place an item on the agenda, contact Board President Gail Falk at 777-0528.*