

February Plainfield Co-op Board Meeting

In Attendance: Joseph, Art, Mike, Gail, Bob, Karla and Scott

January Minutes were approved

By-law Change:

Following on Hunger Mtn and their experience, if we issue a check, and the check is not cashed the coop is not legally able to keep the money. In order to use the money effectively we are proposing to amend our by laws to read:

“By obtaining and retaining membership in the Cooperative, each member agrees that if his or her patronage refund is not cashed within 90 days of the date on which it was issued by the Cooperative, the Cooperative shall have the right to make a contribution in the name of that member ~~to support the local food system~~ in a manner as may be directed by the Board from time to time.”

This wording will be brought to the members at the 2015 (2016) annual meeting for a vote.

Building:

Looking at sealing up the Gamelan room which is losing heat.

Handwashing sink is needed for staff.

Purchase a step ladder, for greater ease and accessibility, (add locking castors to the ladder to prevent scratching floor, and increase ease of movement).

Look at buying a new phone system.

Voted \$10,000 for projects - Paying the contractors for their time in conducting the survey that occurred earlier in the year was not included in that amount.

Treasurer/Equity:

Net Profit for 2014 was approximately \$41,500.00. This amount was before depreciation was factored into accounting. If we were to disperse 1% of the amount of purchases by members, it would be _____ (Bob will send the final \$\$\$). The numbers are still being worked out but this gives an overall idea. The MC will need to figure out the number once Beer and Wine sales have been subtracted if this needs to be done per state regulation. The equity checks will be sent out by May 1st. The equity committee will work on drafting two letters: one for people getting checks, and one for people getting “gift cards” (a register credit). This will include the stipulations that the check must be cashed or the credit used within 90 days.spending the equity amount.

Treasurer Report: Good year in sales. Sales went up and costs went down! Recognition and appreciation is given to the MC for this.

Annual Meeting, if we could move the Annual meeting from the Fall to the Spring, we would be able to give a final budget, and report to the members how much the equity reimbursement

would be. The reasoning would be that we could give a better overview and be more productive. Fall Festival Meeting, too so members would not miss out on the meeting. Early to Mid March for Annual Meeting, a week after town meeting. This plan was approved that the Governance Calendar will be amended. We checked the bylaws, and there are not bylaw problems in postponing (MOVING) the annual meeting.

Communications:

The whole committee has met and divided into two sub groups. All three levels are working and things are in the works. THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MAY MEET BI-MONTHLY AS THE BULK OF THE WORK WILL BE DONE IN THE TWO SUB-COMMITTEES.

MC Evaluation:

Seeing lots of positive work that has been done, and continues to be done.
Concerned about Strategic Plan.
Concerned about communications and clarifying roles and expectations
Would like to look at bringing in a facilitator for board and MC professional development, to continue to grow our understanding with each other.
Gail will draft a formal evaluation and send it around for comments.

Monitoring of Ends -- Co-op Cooperation:

First time looking at this. Thank you Mike for putting this together, and it gives us a good idea of what we doing and where we can go. This report is in compliance and on time

Link Report and B1 (Financial Condition):

On time and in compliance except on B1.1 and B1.8, but accept plan for compliance.
Mike proposed that the Plainfield Co-op allocate part of the equity check from Hunger Mtn Co-op, to Rachel Davey of Buffalo Mtn Co-op, who has supported the Plainfield Co-op in the past in many ways, who has incurred significant health problems. There are no tax concerns, or reasons not to donate part of the funds to support her medical bills. The board expressed concern about doing this at the same time that the MC is questioning whether they will have sufficient cash on hand to cover the dividend payments. Also concerned that there is not a clear rationale for doing this for Rachel (we like her and feel bad about her illness) and not others. Lots of people around with lots of needs. The board is tasking the MC to come up with a process and policy, to describe when to make discretionary payments to an individual for an individual emergency..
How to look at restructuring Q3 and Q4 so we could be more consistent.

Board Governance Calendar for 2015:

Shift Feb, and Jan: End discussion and clarification
Move Annual Meeting to March 2016
Reschedule Annual meeting as Fall Festival

Add work with Andy (March or April if open)

Board Monitoring: C1 Governing Style:

We report compliance with this.

Andy Robinson/Board/Staff Facilitation and Strategic Planning:

Andy offered to support the board in some development ways. While we have our ends we as a board need to do better at long range planning.

Neighboring Co-op Meeting - March 21st Putney (Bob and Joseph?)

Free Training: Understanding the Financials of Boards. Monday, March 16, 6:30 at Kellogg-Hubbard. Bob, Gail, and Joseph plan to attend.

What do we mean by "Sustain the environment": End #3 is "Sustain the environment through its operations and the products it offers.(deferred to next meeting)