

Co-op Board Agenda
Tuesday, November 17 , 2015
6:30 pm at the Community Center

Present: Bob Fancher, Joseph Gainza, Art Chickering, Scott Harris, Gail Falk, Karla Haas-Moskowitz, Jeannine DeWald, Karen Starr, Dawn Fancher (for part of the meeting)

Consent Agenda: October Minutes were approved.

Reports

- Building -- Fire inspection report was circulated and discussed. (Kathleen's comments based on conversation with the inspector were sent to the Board after the meeting). Biggest cost factor for compliance will be updated fire alarm system. Needs to be addressed within 30 days, or else an extension requested. Requesting bids on doing the work from 3 companies. Likely to cost around \$5,000. The good news is that the back stairs were accepted as a second means of egress, with some shoring up work (and assuming that any deep snow at the bottom of the stairs is shoveled). It was agreed that paying for the snow to be shoveled would be less expensive than building an additional exit. The Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$5 thousand from the Capital Fund for work to bring the building into compliance with the Fire Inspection, and requested that the MC report on expenditures and progress at the next Board meeting. The MC will come up with a plan for shoveling snow when necessary at the bottom of the fire escape.
- Treasurer - Impressive that both sales and cost of goods are right on budget as of the end of September.
- Communications/Newsletter. Karen reported that she is finishing up the New Member flyer. No progress yet on the packet for new members. There was a discussion about editorial oversight of the Crunch (and also Facebook, the Web, and the Newsletter). It was suggested that, if there is to be editorial oversight, there need to be policies to guide the oversight. Karla suggested that the policy should be to avoid content that could compromise the organization. It was agreed that recommendations for these decisions should come from the Communications Committee, recognizing that they won't be meeting until January. There does not seem to be a hurry, and so we can wait. The Board requested that the Communications committee bring to the Board and the MC recommendations for policies and procedures for editorial oversight of the Co-ops' communications outlets.
- Harvest Dinner at Twin Valley Senior Center was a great success, and, between the dinner and the raffle, earned more than \$1500.00 for the Senior Center.
- October 17 meeting of representatives from co-operatives around the state was attended by 4 people from Plainfield Co-op. A summary report from that meeting has been circulated to the Board. We will stay tuned to see how it makes sense

for us to be involved.

- NCFAs meeting. Only one Co-op representative was able to go. Dawn brought back information on member loan campaigns. Information on marketing seemed to be aimed at bigger stores than ours.

MC Monitoring - B1. Dawn described the new interpretation for B8. The Board was in agreement with this interpretation. After discussing some details of the report, the Board agreed that the report is in compliance.

Link Report. The MC bought a new printer/FAX/copier/scanner which has much more capacity and produces better looking copy than the old printer. It cost \$2300. The Board approved payment of \$2300.00 from the Capital Fund to cover the costs of the printer because it is expected to last more than five years, and hence qualifies as a capital expense.

Date for spring Annual Meeting. The meeting will be at the Twin Valley Senior Center, and Joseph will coordinate our preferred dates with them. Our preferred dates are March 19-20, April 2-3, or April 9-10.

Terms of Office for Current Board Members. Recruiting. Gail circulated a table, which is included at the end of these minutes, showing the terms of office for each Board member, and who is eligible for re-election. Scott and Art's terms will be up at the spring annual meeting; both are eligible for re-election. Art said he probably won't run for re-election. We discussed possible candidates. Scott will contact a potential candidate.

Strategic Planning - Next steps. Gail reported that the Strategic Planning Team is meeting this week. The members are Michael Billingsley, Ryan Gillard, Dawn Fancher, Petra Gates, Bob Fancher, Karla Haas-Moskowitz, and Gail. We will be using the process outline Andy Robinson provided us, and the list of goals Board and MC members said they wanted to achieve (the list was circulated to Board members and they were asked for their priorities for informal guidance.) Scott noted that many of the goals can be groups so that the list does not necessarily consist of competing priorities. Scott recently had training on Critical Friends technique for group conversations; he thinks it could be helpful in the strategic planning process, and he will share the information with Gail.

Board Monitoring -- D2 Accountability, D3 Delegation. The Board reviewed the policies and concluded that the Board is in compliance. No Link evaluation is due until the new Link system has been in effect for six months. We will review the Link in April. It was agreed that we will be reviewing the functioning of the Link Team and not individuals, unless there is some outstanding problem about an individual.

Should we endorse Energy Independent Vermont Platform? The Board did not feel

it had enough information to make a decision on this. Joseph will invite VPIRG representative will be to our December meeting. There was a discussion about whether the Co-op should endorse political actions as well as whether this one is within the Mission of the Co-op. No final decision was made, but those who spoke up were in favor of endorsements.

Next meeting. Tuesday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center.