

Blue Hill Co-op Board Meeting

October 28, 1009 Blue Hill Public Library

Board Members Attending: Heather Morrison, Chip Angell, Becky McCall, Scott Howell, Ruth Sullivan, Henrietta Clews, Mia Strong

Others Attending: John Miller(owner) Steve Benson(facilitator), Eileen Mielenhausen(owner and volunteer co-ordinator)

Approval of September minutes:

The minutes were approved with no changes.

Time open to owners:

Eileen Mielenhausen, owner, brought up the issue of board/owner forums, wondering if such forums were still under consideration. After several thoughts were exchanged, the board voted to continue the discussion as an added item to their evening's agenda, and it is summarized below. Eileen then took the board's picture and afterward suggested that the newsletter receive a regular summary of board minutes. Ruth brought up the problem of time-lapse between the actual meetings and distribution of the newsletter. Meanwhile, Chip agreed to write a brief summary of today's meeting in time for the upcoming issue.

Discussion: Welcoming and review of Board Officer Responsibilities

Before discussion began, Eileen Mielenhausen took photos of the board .

Acting President Chip Angell led the discussion, distributed a summary of office positions and descriptions and added a few things not included in that summary. For the secretary position, for example, he reviewed the process of distributing minutes, and added that the new secretary will be helped initially by past secretary Erich Reed. Steve added that the secretary is also responsible for making sure that the monthly minutes are available to owners and that any changes in board policy get recorded and sent back to directors. Reviewing the role of treasurer, Chip described the office as traditionally one with a small field of responsibility and suggested the benefit of that scope expanding. Of the president's responsibilities he highlighted the president's role of liaison to the GM. In response to some confusion and a query about board/GM contact in general, Chip explained that the liaison role policy exists not so much to disallow conversation between the GM and other directors, but rather to limit for the sake of clarity necessary and ongoing board/GM communications.

Executive Session: Review of personnel matters

Election:

The board voted to fill the offices of president and secretary immediately and to postpone the election of a full permanent slate of officers until the November meeting. Chip Angell and Heather Morrison were elected Acting President and Acting Secretary, respectively.

GM Report:

Karen was away at a workshop and not present to answer questions, but several comments were made on the issue of produce. One board member brought up the subject of markup, and several agreed that it seemed too high. Another complained of inflexibility in mark-up and suggested,

for example, that there should be lower mark-up for local produce and more consideration of the importance of moving the product. At this point we were reminded to beware of micro-managing, but the discussion went on to the creating of more space for higher turnover items and smaller space or dropping altogether items that don't move as quickly.

Monitoring Report of Policy D5 – Communication and Council

D5 monitoring report was accepted as presented. D5 is in compliance with the exception of D5.6, which the board later voted to amend. The board voted to revise D5.6 to have the deadline for distribution of relevant reports moved from 4 pm on the Friday prior to the board meeting to 4 pm on the Saturday prior to the board meeting.

Monitoring report of Policy D6 – Management Continuity

D6 monitoring report was accepted as presented, with full compliance being reached by January 19.

Board Training

The board will attend a CBLD 101 joint board training session with the Rising Tide Co-op in Damariscotta on December 12, 2009. Some funding, the amount yet unclear, will be granted from NCGA. The board also approved a training session with Michael Healey, date to be determined.

Plans are underway for a welcoming pot-luck supper for the board on Sunday, November 29.

Board/Owner Forums

Mia offered with support from the board to work with Eileen in coming up with a proposal for future owner forums.

Agenda items for next month's meeting: Ruth requested discussion regarding timely/current synopsis of Board Meeting information for Co-op Newsletter. Chip will lead discussion of forming board committee of local growers. Board will elect permanent slate of officers. The board will receive monitoring report D1, quarterly financials.

Next meeting Wednesday November 18th at 6:30pm in the downstairs meeting room of the Blue Hill Library.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rebecca McCall

Heather Morrison, acting Secretary, is in agreement with these, minimally changed from those submitted by Rebecca McCall. Changes, per input from Chip Angell, added November 8, 2009.