

**Northampton Community Cooperative Market, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes In Person and on Zoom video-**  
**conference**  
**July 26, 2023 6:30- 9:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** President Abby Getman Skillicorn, Vice-President Alex Risley Schroeder, Clerk Barra Cohen, Angus Brewer, Wendy Messerli, Gary Schaefer, Sarah Abigail Axe

**Co-op Management Present:** General Manager Rochelle Prunty, Director of Marketing Natasha Latour

**Zoom: Nicole Cowlin, Director of Human Resources**

**Owners on zoom:** None

**Facilitator:** Jade Barker

**Zoom Host:** Executive Assistant Debbie Marshall

**Notetaker:** Beth Skinner Co-op Leadership Administrator

**Presiding:** President Abby Getman Skillicorn

**Absent:** Angela D'Souza, Treasurer Elizabeth Appelquist,

**Meeting convened @ 6:30 PM**

**I.6:30-6:35 PM Member Comments None**

**II. 6:35-7:00 PM: Agenda Review and Approve Minutes**

- Sarah will do the ice-breaker for the August meeting
- All Directors are prepared and ready to report.

- Abby moved and Angus seconded a motion to approve the June 2023 minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

### **Action Items**

- Rochelle will share Our Co-op's History Timeline Presentation **In process**
- Going forward with the board about DEI **Abby In process**
- Need tools of support contact **Abby or Elizabeth In process**
- Sarah to complete Conflict of Interest **Done**
- In-person legal training for Sarah and Angela **Abby Done**

### **III. 7:00- PM River Valley Market LLC and RVC Properties LLC Board Resolutions**

**None**

### **IV. 7:00-7:20 PM Natural Disaster Impact on Local Vendors & Community Partners**

- E-mail vote passed unanimously with one abstention on proposal to spend two thousand of the six thousand dollars available in our Co-op Community Fund to contribute:  
\$1,000 to the New Community Farming Cooperative  
\$1,000 to the United Way Central Mass Farm Resiliency Fund
- **Grow Food Northampton** operates a food distribution program in partnership with the Northampton Survival Center and a mobile market program to support low-income food needs.  
They also provide community garden spaces and a giving garden and supports new farmers with land leases of 121 acres, and nearly all of the ten farms on the land were impacted, with at least two experiencing total crop losses and others partial losses.  
\$1,000 to Grow Food Northampton will come from grant funding
- **New Community Farming Cooperative**  
Somali Bantu farmers lost 100% of their crops at Hadley and Northampton farms due to floods from the Connecticut and Mill Rivers. The farmers operate as an incorporated cooperative named New Community Farming Cooperative (NCFC) in the Greater Springfield area, sharing the 9 acres of farming land among its 20+ members.

- **United Way of Central Mass Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund**  
At least 75 local farms, primarily in central and western Massachusetts, have been damaged by flooding following recent heavy rains.  
Officials estimate about 2,000 acres of crops worth at least \$15 million have been lost as a result.
- Mountain View reported that the impact of the flooding on their fields is the worst-case scenario. Their fields on the Mill and Connecticut Rivers were underwater and will be unsalvageable. Donation will come from operating budget

Abby moved and Gary seconded a motion for Directors, Jade, staff and Rochelle to enter Executive session. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

#### **V. 7:20-8:00 PM Board went into Executive session to discuss Real Estate matters**

Abby moved and Sara seconded a motion to leave Executive session. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions

#### **8:00- 8:10 PM Break**

#### **VI. 8:10 PM Cooperative Expansion in Massachusetts**

- Board received update about RVC's participation in supporting Co-op start-ups here in Massachusetts

#### **VII.8:10-8:30 PM B5: Treatment of Consumers**

Abby moved and Gary seconded a motion to accept internal report as a demonstration of acting within board-established boundaries of executive limitations. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

- Northampton store improving
- Food for All growing

## **VIII. 8:30-8:40 PM B6: Staff Treatment & Compensation**

**8:30 PM** Nicole Cowlin joined the meeting

Sara moved and Abby seconded a motion to accept internal report as a demonstration of acting within board-established boundaries of executive limitations. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

- Hiring going well
- Wages are competitive
- Community involvement growing
- Employee turnover is low

**8:40 PM** Nicole left the meeting

## **IX. 8:40-8:45 PM Election Committee**

- Gary might consider running
- Angus is running
- Three potential candidates

## **X.8:45-9:00 PM Annual Meeting**

- Committee will review the charter and bring changes to the board
- Send less than 20 seconds videos to Natasha
- Doodle poll for fall road trips to visit co-ops

## **Next Steps**

**Action Items** Actions that will be resolved in the future or specific dates for upcoming meetings/events.

- Rochelle will share Our Co-op's History Timeline Presentation
- Going forward with the board about DEI **Abby**

- Need tools of support contact **Abby or Elizabeth**
- Send out CCMA slides and comments **Abby**
- Doodle poll for fall road trip to coops **Beth**

### **Appreciations**

- Jade for facilitation
- Abby for timeline
- Beautiful and informative monitoring reports

**8:30 PM** Meeting Adjourned

Abby moved and Angus seconded a motion to end the meeting, The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions

### **REMINDERS:**

- Packets need to be completed by Thursday at 5:00 PM week before board meeting or the agenda will be changed.
- Reminder to look at Annual meeting charter for possible updates.
- Columinate has resources for DEI and a series of webinars on financial training.

**Next Executive Meeting will be August 9, 2023**

**Next Board Meeting will be August 23 2023 6:30-9:00 PM**

**PARKING LOT is now in google drive “Working Documents”**

Parking Lot items are reflected in board annual retreat and available for executive committee review.

Director	Au 22	Se 22	Oc 22	No 22	De 22	Jan 23	Fe 23	Ma 23	Ap 23	Ma 23	Jun 23	Jul 23
Angus Brewer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alex Risley Schroeder	X	X	X	X	X	abs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gary Schaefer	X	abs	X	X	X	abs	abs	X	X	X	X	X
Abby Getman Skillicorn	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wendy Messerli	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	ab	X	X	X	X
Sarah Axe	abs	X	X	X	X	X	abs	X	X	X	abs	
Angela D'Souza	X	X	abs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	abs	abs
Elizabeth Appelquist	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	abs
Barra Cohen	abs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X