

Northampton Community Cooperative Market, Inc.
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Friday December 6th 2019, 7:30-8:25 PM
Mill 180 Park
180 Pleasant Street #217, Easthampton

Board Members Present: President Steve Bruner, Vice-President Dorian Gregory, Clerk Jacquie Fraser, Treasurer Mark Devlin, Jade Barker, Alex Risley Schroeder, Gary Schaefer, Emily Laine and General Manager Rochelle Prunty

Others Present: 200 co-op owners and guests

Presiding: Steve Bruner, President

Notetaker: Beth Skinner

I. 5:30-7:00 PM Meet & Greet

- Dinner catered by Mill 180 Park, Easthampton
- Small crankie side-shows on People, Profit and Planet

II. 7:00 -7:30 PM Expedition Easthampton Puppet Show

- Special thanks to Gabriel Harrell for creation and direction of the show and to the Board of Directors for their performance.

III. 7:30 PM Meeting convened and Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

- Gary Powsner owner number 1771 motioned to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes, and Andy Anderson owner number 474 seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

IV. 7:35-7:45 PM Introduction by Candidates running for the Board of Directors

- Abby Getman Skillicorn, Wendy Messerli, Mark Devlin, Julie Tuman and Michael A Abbate

V. 7:45-7:50 PM The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice and NuclearBan.US

- The Resistance Center for Peace and Justice and NuclearBan.US gave River Valley Co-op a plaque in commendation for renouncing and holding no investments in nuclear weapons.

VI. 7:50-8:10 Appreciation to Retiring Board Director Jade Barker

- Jade has been involved with River Valley Co-op for 17 years and has served 5 terms as a director.
- Jade served as board president for three years and is nationally recognized for her dedicated co-op work.
- Co-op gave Jade a handcrafted stained glass window in appreciation and recognition of her work for the co-op.
- Jade thanked the board, staff and owners for the life-changing experience of serving the co-op.

VII. 8:10- 8:20 PM Questions & Response by General Manager Rochelle Prunty and President Steve Bruner

**Question by Brian Adams owner number 29
Is Rochelle going to be manager of both stores?**

Liesel de Boor is currently the store manager for the Northampton store. When the Easthampton store opens, Liesel will hire a new store manager for Northampton and manage the Easthampton store. Rochelle Prunty is the General Manager for the organization.

**Question by Andrew Larkin owner number 1350
Will there be diversity in hiring?**

Yes! We want to increase our diversity and have hired this year a Diversity, Inclusion and Equity consultant LaDonna Sanders Redmond who has worked with other co-ops on these issues and has experience with two stores. LaDonna will work with River Valley Co-op for two years and train a permanent replacement.

**Question by Julie Corwin owner number 11252
How can volunteers become involved?**

Volunteers can be involved through committee work and last year volunteers helped with the member loan campaign. Co-op needs volunteers to join our outreach committee and help with a membership drive in Easthampton.

**Question by Stephen C. Frantz owner number 10229
Will we increase the percentage of certified organic produce?**

Much of our local produce is certified organic and having a second store in Easthampton will increase our local products and expand our market.

**Question by Richard Parrish owner number 8015
Were we able to implement \$15.00 minimum wage for all employees?**

Yes! River Valley Co-op increased the wage scale in January of 2019 making the lowest starting wage \$15/hr.

Question by Diane Alpern owner 85

What is projected opening date for Easthampton store?

The plan to open is in July 2021 depending on winter conditions and building.

Question Nora Israeloff owner 38

Will Easthampton and Northampton stores mirror each other in terms of what products they offer?

The Easthampton store will have a bigger prepared foods area but perishables will be very similar in both stores.

VIII. 8:20 PM Final Call for Ballots to Elect Board Members

- Dessert served

8:25 PM Business Meeting Adjourned