

**Northampton Community Cooperative Market, Inc.
Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Friday December 7th 2018, 7:00-8:40 PM
Mill 180 Park
180 Pleasant Street #217, Easthampton, MA**

Board Members Present: President Andrea Stanley, Dorian Gregory, Vice-President Steve Bruner, Clerk Alex Risley Schroeder, Treasurer Dorian Gregory, Jade Barker, Lynn DiTullio, Eric Friedland-Kays, Jacquie Fraser, Gary Schaefer and General Manager Rochelle Prunty

Others Present: 200 co-op owners and guests

Presiding: Andrea Stanley, President

Notetaker: Beth Skinner

5:30-7:00 PM Meet & Greet, Dinner catered by Mill 180 Park Easthampton

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM

I. 7:00 PM Call to Order, Introductions, Agenda Review

We would like to remember co-op owner Denise Herzog, who passed away recently. Denise was a potter and ceramicist who helped found the Cottage Street Studio in Easthampton.

Rochelle welcomed co-op owners to the 20th Annual Meeting and thanked them for their participation. Andrea introduced the current Board members and candidates for the Board of Directors. Andrea thanked Rochelle, marketing manager Natasha Latour and staff that have made this event possible.

Alan Seewald (2013) motioned to accept the agenda, and Sue Crimmins (2590) seconded. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

II. PM Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 7, 2017 Annual Meeting were distributed and reviewed Jane Nvensmith (2205) made a motion to approve the minutes and Andrew Larkin (1350) seconded the motion The minutes were approved unanimously with no abstentions.

III. 7:15 PM President's Report from Andrea Stanley

Happy 10th birthday for River Valley Co-op. In the midst of a national financial crisis of 2008 River Valley opened a grocery store by the community and for the community. The co-op has succeeded beyond our wildest dreams offering full-time jobs and benefits. River Valley Co-op is continuing to grow in owners and customers, and the Board is actively planning for

the development of a second store to accommodate the increased patronage and ownership. The impetus is to ease congestion on the flagship store and to stay current with trends and the increased competition in the grocery industry. Andrea outlined the stages of the expansion process, focusing on the current planning phases: River Valley Co-op has an option to purchase a site in Easthampton to build a second store with 12 to 18 months to secure financing, feasibility and market study.

“Everyone Welcome, Continuing the Conversation” was the topic of the speakers at our last annual meeting bringing personal narratives about race and food co-ops into discussion. The board is committed to continuing this conversation.

IV. 7: 18 PM General Manager’s Report from Rochelle

In 2018, the co-op had 10,000 owners and added 753 members since last year. The co-op has a staff of 165 people and 91% work full time. 74% have higher than the living wage. In 2019, we are going to implement \$15.00 an hour minimum wage. In FY18, our local purchases totaled \$6,150,084 and 34% of the co-ops total wholesale purchases came from local farmers and suppliers. We contributed to local nonprofits and community organizations to support their work, special events and fundraising efforts totaling \$158,915. An increase of \$23,047 from last year.

We support NCG (National Co-op Grocers) as our purchasing co-op with 150 other co-ops and offer lower priced products under the label Field Day. We sold 7,408 bottles of Fair Trade Riojana Co-op wine from Argentina. In June, we hosted a Strawberry Ice Cream Social and announced our Co-op Hero awards honoring a nonprofit, a business, a farm and an individual that nurtures and sustains cooperative values in our community. River Valley Co-op measured our carbon footprint by raising money to plant trees in a co-op forest in Peru. We raised \$4,000 and planted 700 trees.

Sales exceeded our 10th year projection to over 28 million.

We plan to complete planning and financing to proceed with the purchase of our store site in 2019 and our goal is to open the new store by July 2020. Our project team includes: Wright Builders as construction manager and general contractor, Thomas Douglas Architecture, Berkshire Design Group doing site planning and civil engineering and National Co-op Grocers (NCG) Development working on feasibility, design and financing.

V. 7:40-PM Guest Speakers Thomas Douglas, Architecture and Jeff Squire from Berkshire Design

Tom helped with the original store and renovation project. He is excited to be working with the NCG consultant on store interior. He presented a 3D view of the new store.

7:55 Jeff discussed landscape design and sustainability. 200-car parking lot and enhancing the

wetlands on the site. Importance of trees like Elms with good sight lines of the building.

VI. 8:04 Co-op Owner Q&A

Rochelle and Andrea solicited questions from the membership, and responded to them. Questions asked and comments shared included the following inquiries:

- Q- Lisa Clausen (7466) wishes to encourage diversity hiring for the project.
A – Yes, we will be looking at diversity and the bidding is open to union and non-union subcontractors.
- Q- Fred Andresen (2967) concerned that Captain Jacks has parking access.
A – Yes, parking access will be shared.
- Q- WHO ??? (3830) wonders if the building currently on site be torn down?
A-Yes this structure is not a good fit and given our sustainability goals it is too old to retrofit appropriately
- Q –Sue Crimmins (2590) will there be more or less impermeable surfaces with new design?
A –So much is paved now and we are not adding to the impermeable surfaces.
- Q-Garrett Adams (179) what about bicycle access?
A – We will have a bike path, crosswalk and lots of bike racks.
- Q- Rhonda Mariana (66) does Captain Jacks pay rent?
A – We are in process of negotiating and Captain Jacks has been on a lease. MORE HERE
- Q –Charlie Poirier (2701) Can there be a designated staff place on the board of directors?
A- We have not explored that specifically because if a staff member is an owner they can run for the board.
- Q Penny Geis (2066) Can you give information about wage scale at the co-op?
A- We will be implementing \$15.00 minimum wage in 2019 and offer a good benefits package.
- Q- Eli Damon (6648) would River Valley Market be interested in bicycle training?
A. Yes, see Natasha, the coop’s marketing manager.
- Q- Christine DeChristopher (9659) Can you encourage pollinators for the landscaping rather than just grass
A- Yes.
- Q- Dale Renfrow (1022) Why not more local organic bread?
A- Bakers use local wheat that does not use Roundup.

VII. 8:31 Door Prizes, Final Call for Ballots to Elect Board Members

Thanks you to Mill Park for the great food!

VIII. 8:40 PM Business Meeting Adjourned

Lynn DiTullio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Alisha (10255) seconded it. The motion passes unanimously with no abstentions.

