

UNAPPROVED



**DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes**

**November 10, 2022 6:00-7:30pm**

Eva Schectman welcomed everyone and expressed regret that we were not meeting in person. The council introduced themselves through pre-recorded messages. Eva then introduced Bonnie Hudspeth, the moderator for the evening from the Neighboring Food Co-op Association. Bonnie acknowledged the Co-op's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, explained relevant features in the Zoom meeting platform, reviewed the agenda, and shared the meeting ground rules.

Bonnie asked Rowan Sherwood to verify quorum. Quorum was established with 147 participants.

Bonnie asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. Eva Schectman moved, and Jen Porrier seconded to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes. Bonnie invited comments to be typed in the chat. There were no comments. Bonnie instructed people to use the green check or red x reactions to cast their vote. The minutes were approved.

The next order of business was to approve the minutes from the Special Bylaw meeting last May. Bonnie offered an amendment from Co-op member Elizabeth Jesdale. A member named Billy moved and Ed Fox seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Co-op members approved the special meeting minutes. Eva spoke to the Co-op's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, giving a brief history and expressing appreciation for all that has gone into building it into what it is today. Participants then viewed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary video produced in partnership with ORCA Media. After the video, Bonnie shared some of the memories and comments shared in the chat and wished the Co-op community a happy 50<sup>th</sup>. Storekeeping Manager Mary Mullally shared vital statistics of the Co-op at 50. Bonnie explained a small group discussion activity including how to document responses to the questions. Most participants entered breakout rooms with their small groups for approximately 10 minutes. After breakout rooms finished, Rowan read a letter from Senator Patrick Leahy acknowledging the Co-op's contributions to the community over the years.

Bonnie introduced a recording of Jay Wisner, Human Resources Manager, recognizing employees for their service and longevity.

We then heard a recording of Claire Wheeler, chair of the Hunger Mountain Cooperative Community Fund, sharing about this year's recipients. This year the fund gave out a record \$15,200 to 15 local organizations doing important work in our community in alignment with the Co-op's mission.

Next, Eva and Kari Bradley presented council and manager reports. By all measures, the Co-op is vibrant and healthy. Membership is growing, local sales are strong, and our donations and sponsorships are up. In the last year, the council has focused on JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) education,

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succeeded in winning membership approval of a proposed bylaw revision, and continues to seek ways to reduce the Co-op's carbon emissions. Kari reported that the Co-op is in a solid financial position, with a strong focus on local product sales. He recognized our long-time produce manager Robert Kirigin, and congratulated him on his retirement after 38 years. He also thanked Muffin Spencer, who saw the produce department through the pandemic and is also moving on at the end of the month.

Bonnie invited questions and comments on the reports. There was lively discourse on topics such as the curbside program, the newly purchased solar array, when the café will re-open, reducing use of plastics in the store, masking requirements/Covid guidelines, and composting options for the community.

Rowan explained voting instructions for council elections. Attendees viewed pre-recorded videos from council candidates. Voting opened at the meeting and will continue until November 27<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie introduced the Hunger Mountain Cooperative Community Award and the award was presented by Elly Wood, Human Resources Assistant, via recording. Liv Dunton and Doni Cain, both former Co-op employees who opened Fox Market in East Montpelier won the award. They have created a fun, welcoming space focused on supporting our LGBTQ+ community.

Kari thanked Liv and Doni and wrapped the evening by letting folks know about a follow-up discussion after the meeting, encouraging folks to participate in our Neighbors Helping Neighbors campaign to benefit the Vermont Foodbank, and encouraging folks to donate to the Hunger Mountain Cooperative Community fund if they are able. Eva thanked Andrew Sullivan and Nick Sivret, who are not seeking reelection as council member and staff representative. She also thanked our community partners and announced the raffle winners.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm