

Middlebury Natural Foods Cooperative

Board of Directors Meeting

January 23, 2013

Approved 2/13/13

Board Members Present: Daryl Benoit, Kristin Bolton, Ilaria Brancoli Busdraghi, Ross Conrad, Mary Gill, Kevin Lehman, Jay Leshinsky, Karen Miller-Lane, Tam Stewart, Louise Vojtisek.

Board Members Absent: Francisca Drexel.

Others present: Victoria DeWind (staff liaison), Glenn Lower (General Manager).

Board Monitor: Tam

Call to Order: Jay called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Member's Business: Joe Gleason, member-owner, presented the Board with an article about Passive Construction and encouraged MNFC to use its principles in any new store construction. He feels it would be a socially and environmentally responsible building approach. It emphasizes high R value insulation with cellulose, heat exchanging and total sealing.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Karen, seconded by Ilaria, the minutes of December 19 were approved as amended with all in favor and Daryl and Louise abstaining.

GM Report: Glenn mentioned his consulting with Franklin Community Coop (formerly Greenfields) about starting a Food for All program. He is also working with Vermont Integrated Architecture on a time line for their work which should take about 2 months.

MNFC Newsletter: Ross asked if electronic newsletters really save resources given those used in making devices to read them. Kristin pointed out that they are being made anyway. Glenn said the plan is to someday send only e-newsletters with some paper ones in the store. Karen suggested posting spam fixers on the website and post each issue on Facebook. Kristin suggested surveying member-owners to find out how many are actually reading the e-newsletter.

Communications Committee Report: New Board photos are up on the Board's board.

There was discussion of switching the newsletter format to a HTML rather than a pdf. This is an operational decision.

Tam discussed the 2013 Communications Plan for growth and expansion and how to be transparent to member-owners. The Committee endorses the idea of communication being primarily an operations function which the Board will follow closely so it is not out of sequence with operations and so that they speak with one voice. Consensus was that this more collaborative approach would avoid past communication problems about changes. Suggestions included a "2 cent" board to collect comments, an on-line survey that collates comments to find repeated themes, and discussion at the Annual Meeting. Informing member-owners along the way, always asking "are you with us?" so there are no surprises is important. A survey of customers about needs could be done from which ways to meet those needs could be presented to

member-owners. Daryl mentioned that Addison County Regional Planning (ACRP) is considering traffic calming measure around their building and the connection to the MNFC lot.

WELF Service Provider Grant: Kevin discussed the \$1 million grant program for funding projects that promote sustainable food systems and asked for support of a letter in intent. He suggested collaboration on efforts to build food security through the integration of food hubs and community groups rather than by independent efforts. ACRP will apply to do an assessment of food needs and how to meet them. There should be regional assessment by food type and farmer involvement in this effort. There was consensus that MNFC should participate and support the potential project.

Retreat Agenda: Jay presented the agenda on which he and Michael had identified three topics for discussion with time for additional issues. With the number of people sharing ideas in a limited time frame it was agreed that directors would post pre-retreat comments on the three topics on Basecamp by Jan 28th. Ross suggested giving examples to clarify their vision. Kevin suggested focusing on what is the goal rather than how to reach it. Many comments were made on the importance of strategic conversations to express and prioritize ideas with one voice as a guide for Glenn. The retreat should make it clear if new or revised EL's are needed for growth and expansion work.

Elections: Mary presented an updated newsletter election announcement for March. Applications and posters should be in the store and on the website and possibly at Connection businesses. Notices could also go in the Addison Independent, register screens and Facebook. It was decided to do separate election mailings to all member-owners to insure they are received by everyone. Glenn repeated his intention to have electronic voting in the store.

Next Meeting – February 13:

GP 5 & 6 monitoring
Retreat follow-up
BDC – elections
WLEP grant
Director's compensation

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session for personnel discussions at 8:36 on a motion by Kristin, seconded by Karen with all in favor.

Adjournment: The Board came out of Executive Session and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm on a motion by Ross, seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Victoria DeWind