

Coteau Community Market Board of Directors  
Minutes of the April 15, 2021  
Regular Meeting  
Virtual Meeting via Google Meet

Board Chair Annie Mullin called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Members participating: Annie Mullin, Mike Mullin, Jan Mullin, Jen Moos, Bruce Stauffer, and Stacy Roberts. Members absent: Michelle Turbak.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the October 12, 2020, and the March 2, 2021, virtual meetings by Moos and second by Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Moos and second by Roberts. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Roberts to reimburse Annie \$31.40 for printing costs. Second by Moos. Motion passed with Annie abstaining from the vote.

Annie reported that the taxes have been submitted. She also reported that a minor error in the net operating loss reported in last year's taxes was caught and corrected per directions from the accountant who reviewed them.

As of today, there are 81 individual and 2 institutional memberships.

Motion to change the wording in the Limited-Income Membership (LIME) Program section in the Membership Policy made by Moos with second by Roberts. Motion passed unanimously. Changes made are as follows with strikeouts indicating removal and underscore being additions of text.

*"False representation of participation will result in ~~immediate~~ termination of the membership ~~and~~ ~~ineligibility of the person to apply for membership ever again.~~"*

*"Failure to do so ~~results will result~~ in termination of the membership."*

Annie gave an update on the member-only seed and bulk grain orders. Some of the order damaged in transit and some from one producer that was improperly packaged and labeled. She has talked with the producer and they will correct their errors. She is communicating with the transport company to help the producer get reimbursed for the damaged product.

Annie told the Board that two new wholesale distributors have been added, one of which is a certified B corporation. Several new producers have been added. One of the producers produces fresh produce and has items currently available. She will be exploring the possibility of having weekly or biweekly boxes that have been prepaid for available for pickup in Watertown by members.

The topic of funding for a store was addressed. The Director of the Watertown Development Corporation (WDC) has taken a different job and as a result we have no official response about what it can do for us. There is a way to enable people to make tax deductible donations through a fiscal sponsor to the co-op. The Watertown Community Foundation was approached to be our fiscal sponsor, but are not able to do it. There is a firm in Minnesota that can do it. Annie shared that a co-op she visited with raised about half of the funds they needed to move into a larger location this way. She will get more information from the Minnesota firm.

It was reported that the three Mullins had toured the potential location on Jensen Avenue. Their conclusion was that it would not work for the market at this time.

Jan and Annie Mullin's terms will be ending this year and Jan intends not to run for reelection.

Discussion of things the board members can be doing followed. Some of the things mentioned were talking up the co-op to get more people to join, coming up with names of people they know that they think would make good board members, and reviewing policies from other co-ops to see if they are ones we need. Annie will share the policies she has gotten from other co-ops. The opinion was shared by several members that fewer policies was more to their liking. Annie will work on a job description for the store manager.

Annie reported that she had gotten a partial refund for the website plugin that allowed for adding a fee when people paid by credit card. There was not enough usage to justify the cost of the plugin. In the future she will add the credit card fee into the price of all items.

The issue with Microsoft mail blocking emails from the co-op in Hotmail as spam has been resolved.

Annie reported that one of the co-ops she has been in contact with suggests using Square for a point of sale system because it costs much less than other systems. She will be looking at it to see if it will do what is needed.

Participating in Watertown Pride and Crazy Days was discussed. The consensus was to skip Crazy Days because mostly people were just looking for cheap deals. Stacy may do a table for Watertown Pride. She will let the board know what she decides. It was suggested that in lieu of a table that some of the market bags could be donated as prizes. During the discussion Annie mentioned that she was going to contact the Multicultural Center to ask if they would translate the market policies and forms into Spanish. Discussion ensued about the size of different ethnic groups in Watertown.

Jen left the meeting.

Annie reported on the different levels of contact she has had with other co-ops.

On the open:

Bruce asked what the most important goals are right now. The discussion that followed came to the conclusion that opening a storefront and the funding to do that were the keys to the whole thing. It was the consensus that we need to open a small store in order to grow the membership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.



Mike Mullin, Secretary



Annie Mullin, Chair

May 17, 2021

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Approved Date