

**Rising Tide Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Rising Tide Upstairs Staff Lounge**

Mary Ellen Barnes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were: Mary Ellen Barnes (president), Sarah Matel, Amy Leshure (treasurer), Peter Lakis, and Dana Wilson (secretary). Staff in attendance were: Candy Bordonaro and Dwight Chamberlain.

General Manager Michael Walter was attending the Eastern Corridor GM Meeting hosted by National Cooperative Grocers and submitted his reports to the board in advance of the meeting.

The Board VOTED unanimously to approve the consent agenda which consisted solely of the June 10, 2015 meeting minutes.

Dwight and Candy answered board member questions about the GM report in Michael's absence. The security camera installation was discussed. Dwight explained some examples of shoplifting happening in the store. He mentioned that they may add a notebook at the front profiling repeat offenders for the cashiers, panic buttons are at the registers, and possibly adding a camera monitor at the checkout if management feels it is appropriate. **The Board requested that Michael report on this project again in September.**

Peter made a motion to table the GM's B1 report on Financial Condition until the September meeting when Michael is able to present it in person. Amy seconded. All voted in favor.

Mary Ellen presented the C6 Board Report on Officers' Roles and all approved. Jon was absent. **Jon will present Board Monitoring Report C4 at the September 2015 meeting or in advance via email.**

In the Finance Committee report, Peter questioned board expenses being \$9,000 in one month. This was due to the workshop CB 101. Candy added that we didn't have good attendance from other coops to lower the cost. The Board agreed this was a decadent expenditure when we could attend the same program in New Hampshire for significantly less. It was reiterated that the Board wants to spend consultant funds perhaps on strategic planning.

The high loans were discussed briefly, as well as a possible policy on limiting staff paid vacation time to 120 hours. It was mentioned again that the store has lots of cash on hand at the moment. This is needed for the forthcoming parking lot rebuilding. Then the Finance Committee will work to determine an appropriate amount of cash to keep on hand.

Dana asked about the status of guaranties that were needed about one year ago. Sarah said this was related to our Genesis loan renewal. We needed to close a \$40K gap in order to renew. But Genesis renewed the loan anyway because RT is steadily paying it down, shrinking that gap. **Amy will get an update from Liza at Genesis on the current gap and any current need for guaranties.**

Michael shared a save-the-date to a 40th anniversary celebration for the Cooperative Fund of New England on Saturday, October 3 from 5-7pm in the FARMS space at Rising Tide. **Dana will forward the save-the-date to board members. DONE.**

The Board discussed the 2016 Annual Meeting. Round Top is holding the date of May 22, 2016 for us in the Darrows Barn. Amy inquired about doing something at the store like the Belfast Coop's Annual Meeting model in the parking lot with lots of vendors. Peter said it makes sense to have it where the store is. It could be a nice community gathering, building local business ties. If Mobius is closed on weekends, maybe we could use their lot. Mary Ellen agreed that we should think about making it unique and also recommended that the planning not be put solely on one person. Sarah recommended not doing it during summer because of the dilution of membership by seasonal visitors. **The Board agreed to decide on whether or not to book Darrows Barn at the September meeting.**

Mary Ellen asked the Board to come up with a time to begin strategic planning. Sarah said finance committee ought to figure out parking lot costs and plans for that project before the board does strategic planning for the store. Those costs are likely to be understood by the Finance Committee in time for the October board meeting. Mary Ellen asked who we would want to bring in to facilitate. Sarah suggested that a former board member would be ideal at the start of the conversation. **The Board agreed to meet for an initial strategic planning session on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at FARMS from 8-11am.** Sarah suggested that Mary Ellen ask Michael for some preparation.

Dwight and Candy left. Executive session started at 6:40pm.

The next meeting will take place on September 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Dana Wilson, Rising Tide Board Secretary.