

Minutes
Fiddleheads Natural Food Annual Meeting
13 Broad St. New London
7:00 p.m., May 26, 2009

Call to order at 7:00

Directors Present: Ellen Anthony, Ed DeMuzzio - Vice President, Sheila Herbert, David Jensen - Treasurer, Allen Longendyke - Secretary, Richard Spindler-Virgin - President, Jim Stidfole

Voting Coop Members Present: Ellen Anthony, Allen Longendyke, David Jensen, Sheila Herbert, Petie Reed, Betty Stecher, Madelyne Greif, Richard Spindler-Virgin, Bud McAllister, Joseph C. Peterson, Patricia Bolles, Edward Ruete, Lisa Cygan, William Hine, Fred Paxton, Joan Weigle, Kenric Hanson, Jim Stidfole, Ellen Lazerow, Myles Green, Edward DeMuzzio, Nancy Potter, John Sargent, Art Costa, Dan Glynn, Bruce Baratz, Lorain Simister, Bob Stuller, Kristin DeMuzzio, Emily Lerner, Anne Lang, and Laurie Gorham.

The meeting opened with a report on Coop accomplishments over the last year by President Richard Spindler-Virgin. These included:

1. Acquisition of donated shelving, bulk bins, a walk-in dairy cooler, an eight door display freezer, large and small produce cooler, and two other smaller ice cream freezers from a Natural Foods Grocery in Ridgefield Connecticut that was moving to new location.
2. The Coop was able to get this equipment installed and set up at minimal cost with a day and half of donated labor from the Plumbers/HVAC guild.
3. The sealing/painting of the former 'dust bowl' floor done by volunteer labor.
4. The donation of booths from the Hygienic for seating/eating areas.
5. Product line expansion from a few dry and frozen goods to a full range of groceries and produce.
6. The expansion of Coop hours from two to five days a week, all done with a volunteer labor force.
7. Ability to take credit, debit, and EBT cards for purchases.
8. The decision to have meats supplied through local farmers and vendors rather than trying to set up any sort of butcher shop in the store.

Immediate future goals include:

1. Expanding opening hours Tuesday through Friday to begin at 10:00 to match the hours of the New London Farmer's Market, which will be situated in the Fiddleheads parking lot starting in July.
2. Development of an in-store reference library on health, food, and sustainability related references.
3. Application for a license to sell (local and organic) beer and wine.

4. A second Dinner on the Farm fund raiser to held in August 2009.

The improvement wish list for the store includes:

1. Installation of appropriate lighting.
2. Replacement of the front door.
3. Replacement and improvements to windows.
4. Set-up of a walk-in dairy cooler that was part of the Ridgefield donation. A compressor will need to be purchased and installed as part of this set-up.

Vice President Ed DeMuzzio then gave a financial report on the Coop. The attached report shows a balance between assets and liabilities, both totaling \$365,363. Ed also presented a graph (attached) showing the straight increase in monthly sales which follows a pattern of about a 20% increase each month.

Secretary Allen Longendyke reported that the Cooperative now has 930 members, an increase from 803 at the time of last year's annual meeting.

Board Election Coordinator Andy Derr then spoke regarding election of three Board members. The candidates were: Allen Longendyke, running for an additional term of three years, Jim Stidfole also running for an additional term of three years, and Edward (Ned) Ruete running for an initial term of three years. Each candidate gave a brief statement regarding their motivations for candidacy. Andy suggested that since there were openings on the Board for all three (plus more if there were more candidates), that the vote be for them as a slate. Coop Member Ken Hanson made a motion to approve the slate. It was seconded by Coop Member Madelyne Grief. The slate was approved unanimously.

Coop Member John Sargent spoke, expressing his thanks to the Board for working together and achieving all that has been accomplished in the past year.

Coop Member Bud McAllister spoke on how he would like to see the Coop set up a bottle and can recycling center in the back of the parking lot that would employ the homeless and create green jobs.

Coop Member Joan Weigle reported that she is now in charge of obtaining guest speakers for the Coop. This will be done in a small round table format during Coop hours. She asked that if anyone has a idea for a speaker, to let her know.

All business being accomplished, a motion to adjourn was made by Coop Member Madelyne Grief and seconded by Coop Member Ellen Lazerow. The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

