

The Village Co-Op Market of Williamsville

Board Meeting Minutes

When: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 | Work Session 5:30pm | Board Meeting 6:30pm

Where: Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Jim Walfrand, Ariana Martínez, Julie Yates, Mary Ellen Haefner, Steve Schultz, Mark Storch, John Ostroot

- A. Reading of Mission Statement: by John Ostroot
- B. Approval of minutes from May 27 meeting: Motion to approve – Steve Schultz; Second – Jim Walfrand; In favor – all members
- C. New business:
- Farmers Market: The market was well-attended this past Saturday, which was the first for the Village Co-op tent this year. There were four new member-owner signups, and others expressed an interest. There were six T-shirts sold, and \$35 in donations. Volunteers are needed for July; signups can be made via www.villagecoopmarket.com.
 - Member-owner orientations: Jim Walfrand and Julie Yates held the first orientation on Zoom on June 17, with several member-owners in attendance. Another session will be planned for July.
- D. Updates:
- Membership: 412
 - Finance: Balances – Checking – \$16,996.70; CD-1 – \$25,563.41; CD-2 – \$10,087.20.
 - Site Selection / Proforma: Efforts are still being made to contact developers to see which sites may be affordable for the Village Co-op's store.
 - Marketing:
 - Volunteers are needed for the Co-op's Farmers Market tent in July.
 - Other than the Farmers Market, tabling events are on hold.
 - The second newsletter will be published very soon.
 - Social media volunteers have already had an impact by increasing followers on Facebook and Instagram. More work on these platforms is in progress.
 - Another community park cleanup event is being considered, for which volunteers will be needed.
- E. Other business / comments:
- Election Committee update: Three of four committee members agreed to stay on. Appointments are due to be made in July. Member-owners may express interest in this committee. Board elections will be held toward the end of the year.
 - Annual member-owner meeting: The board voted to have this meeting every April, with motion by Julie Yates, second by John Ostroot, all in favor. The meeting for this year is being tabled.

- The Food Co-op Initiative recently concluded its COVIDeo Series of webinars that dealt with issues co-ops are facing with organizing and management during the pandemic. Mary Ellen indicated that she had become familiar with several other co-ops in the US and made good contacts with individuals involved. The COVIDeo Series is available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZi0T19YiBFJSpNwQCD7XrjOauuzTXmm8>

F. Questions/Discussion –

- A member-owner asked about the general amount of space envisioned for the co-op market. A store of 10,000 – 12,000 sq. ft. is planned. Important features will include a café, banquet area, and prepared hot / cold foods. As was highlighted as part of the FCI COVIDeo webinars, there are new concerns about store layout and the presence of bulk foods that will have to be taken into account.

G. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm. Motion to adjourn – Julie Yates; Second – Jim Walfrand; In favor – all members

Next Meeting: July 22, 2020; Work Session @ 5:30pm, Board Meeting @ 6:30pm
Where: TBD