
Potsdam Food Co-op Pot Luck Minutes

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Local Vendors - Happy Half Hour

Eric thanked the vendors for their participation.

Longview Farms – Jessie and Eric Barr, small-scale diversified farm
393 Emerson Rd, Canton, NY 13617
Pulled Pork

Prosper's Farmstead Creamery – Jessica Prosper
Jessica Prosper, 88 Cemetery Rd, North Lawrence, NY 12967
Yogurt

Spring Valley Farms – Larry & Linda Seeger
21 County Route 35, Canton, NY – Organic Beef

Village Veggies – John Dewar
50 Waverly St, Potsdam, NY
Garlic

President's Welcome

Vanessa Bittner welcomed everyone to the dinner advising that we will have a short member meeting and all are welcome to leave afterward or stay for the Board meeting which will include committee reports.

- Member Discussion – **Laura Cordts** discussed the forms left on each table and asked that the members fill them out and leave them on the tables at the end of the meeting. She also advised we will be continuing the Neighborhood Potlucks.
- October Potluck – remind membership October 21, 2014.

Vanessa thanked the musicians for the entertainment during dinner.

Manager's Report: – Eric Jesner

Eric thanked everyone for coming, and stated it was nice to see such a large attendance. He noted there were several important subjects he wanted to bring to their attention:

- We need to paint the outside of the store this summer, it needs to be scraped, primed and painted – this is planned to begin during the week of July 21st. We will do it in sections, working our way around the building.

We are asking for volunteers to help. We would like to get this completed before the open house in September.

- Personnel: new staff member, Veronica – she is responsible for the Carriage house and deliveries.
- On each table there is a list – the comment board has been relocated – in its place we have put a board displaying tasking that we need help with:

Core working positions open :

- ❖ Looking for workers on days of deliveries;
- ❖ Small periodic jobs such as stacking wood when needed;
- ❖ Artistic talent to redo blackboard;
- ❖ In-store signage that needs to be printed each month;
- ❖ Cleaning shelves – Sunday morning or evenings;
- ❖ Cashier shifts – have a core worker do cashier to free up an employee to do other work.

To keep prices [or prices?] low, keep staffing low due to the increase of minimum wage and increase of healthcare costs. With using core workers we don't have to reduce wages or hours of the staff working at present, but have members involved in the everyday workings of the store.

General Notes: Windows XP not updating. All the Co-op's computers needed to be replaced. Cashiers like the new system. It is much faster and has more features.

- **New bread:** – The members present generally liked the bread served for dinner – Eric advised this bread was made with a new/different flour. He explained that for years we have used organic white flour(15 to 20 bags a week). However, the cost has increased \$8 per bag – costing \$1 per pound.. We would like to switch to this flour, which will allow us to use flour in line with our pricing, not lose money and allow us to be more profitable.

There was a question on “will we also be changing the wheat bread too?” Eric advised that we will be looking at the other flours as well to see if we can bring it in line with the cost, and as we switch away from organic, we will test it out first.

If we switch away from organic flour we will not have to raise prices. If we don't switch, prices will raise a minimum of \$1 or possibly 35%.

The general consensus of those in attendance was to switch to the non-GMO flour from King Arthur.

- Sales Report: 2014 Current Month's sales: up \$9,131.880 over 2013. Discussion was on using credit and debit cards and the costs associated with each one.

Eric thanked everyone for coming.

Robin – Asked the employees and core workers to stand for recognition. These are the people that make the Co-op work.

Close Member Meeting/Potluck

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Committee reports (including how each committee is addressing relevant Action Plan activities)

Membership Committee:

Laura Cordts – The Membership Committee made the motion to allow and encourage Co-op member/owners to pay their equity in full or in larger increments, rather than to pay in 10 annual installments.

- Robin was not in favor of the wording “encourage” as we do not have the need for cash flow purposes.

It was agreed to strike “encourage” from the motion.

Laura made the motion, Tamijean seconded – amended motion carried

- If we do this the cashier will need a script to follow to offer this option

Governance Committee: meeting scheduled July 3rd

- Committee to address BPM 3.5.2 revision in Dropbox – change officer elections, meeting first week of February – will ask for vote at next meeting.

Meetings – Annual meeting would be first week of February- Feb 3rd

Outreach Committee:

Baking Fest will be on blackboard on Friday

Finance Committee: Cash Issues - **Robin** stated cash flow projections are for 18 months; Quick Books are going forward.

- College Cards – not recommending, don’t believe it will have an adverse reaction. We need to know the costs up front. This is a Manager’s decision.

Marketing Task Force

- Meeting Thursday

Website Committee

- Meeting Monday