

Board Present: Richard Virgin, Jim Stidfole, Sheila Herbert, Ellen Anthony, David Jensen, Ed DeMuzzio, Suzanne Cattenach, Ned Ruete, Allen Longendyke

Member Present - John Sargent

Ned motioned to accept the 9/15 minutes with the correction that Ed was late to that meeting. Suzanne seconded - all voted in favor to accept the corrected minutes,

Secretary's Report - We currently have 998 Coop members. Dick noted he has one more membership in his pocket.

Member Comments: John Sargent asked if people liked the gallery shows and did we wish to continue. All felt people did like the shows and we would continue for the time being as long as space allowed. John asked if there was a planned site on the store floor for the shows in the future. The Board stated not as yet, planning is ongoing. John asked if we would like to promote school groups touring the store. Dick stated based on his experience we should have requests for tours in writing and that guidelines need to be established. It was noted that the volunteer staff is usually too busy at present to assist with tours, especially if short of help or working on stocking an incoming order. No decision was reached regarding tours other than they need to be planned, in writing, and fully staffed. John also brought up that there are grants available for solar water heating for commercial businesses. He stated he would look further into this - it is an idea well worth pursuing for the future.

Financial Report - Nancy was not able to be present but requested the Board may wish to prioritize outstanding bills. The general discussion was that she was doing a good job of this and should continue balancing the payments.

President's Report - Dick is looking into alternative electric companies for businesses as CL&P is super-costly, and did a very superficial energy audit. As the Downtown Business Association is going to start keeping their member businesses open until 8:00 on Friday nights through to the week before Christmas, he has committed to that group that Fiddleheads will also be open for business until 8:00 p.m. on Fridays during this time period. Dick reported that he had to submit additional paperwork to the State regarding our request to sell beer. He stated we also needed to build a cage to lock the back stock of beer in. Jim felt that would not be a problem and he would scout a spot in the back of the store to do this.

Business - Ellen requested a \$500 allocation to order a quantity of bulk bins to use and for back-up. The overall discussion went along the lines that we should incur as few expenses as possible right now and that this order was not critical. Ellen stated she has been getting bulk display items a few at a time from Ebay and being reimbursed and she could continue doing that. Overall the Board felt this was not a necessary expense at this time.

Ed - Reported that putting up the new lighting was complicated and could not be done by a volunteer group as initially thought possible, hence the delay. Electrical professionals will be needed to install a good deal of the equipment. Right now funding is short for this project.

Sheila reported that Brian Brother (Bayou and Raiders Roost Chef/Owner) will be preparing pre-made salads to sell fresh in store starting this coming week. Brian will monitor the freshness, etc of the products. She also reported that we will be selling pies on an on-order basis for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.