

Minutes
Fiddleheads Natural Food Co-op Board of Directors
CCi Inc., 190 Broad St. New London
7:00 - 9:00 p.m., December 15, 2009

Call to order at 7:00

Directors Present: Richard Virgin, Ed DeMuzzio, Sheila Herbert, Ellen Anthony, Suzanne Cattanach, David Jensen, Allen Longendyke, Ned Ruete.

Coop Members Present: Cindy Barry, Betty Stecher, Nancy Potter

A motion was made by Ellen and seconded by Suzanne to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting. Approval of the minutes were unanimous.

Secretary's Report: "As of December 15 we have at least 1034 member households."

Betty Stecher submitted a list of questions she wanted each Board of Directors member to respond to individually. After brief discussion Sheila noted that as a Board and per our Board training (From Cooperative Fund of New England) we have to speak as a whole and it would not be appropriate for the Board Members to answer the questions individually. Dick stated we would take the questions under advisement and get back to Betty as a group.

Cindy Barry (of Ledge Light Public Health) spoke about the Achieve survey for New London Residents regarding Food use, supply, and distribution and the importance of getting as many residents to fill it out as possible. The survey and a drop box are currently set up in the store.

Old Business:

Suzanne reported that we were down to two alternate energy companies in the search to lower costs in that area. Dick stated that in response to the call for a member to do an audit, one person responded that their firm would be willing to "research a price" for an audit. Ed stated that the cost of an audit would be considerable. He suggested that instead we look to find a CPA for advice. Dick also stated the recent Tony Cronin article in the day seems to have had a very positive effect both on store business and

memberships. Dick met with an awning company representative who checked out the awning case outside the store. There is no awning in there and appears to never have been one. There would also be a problem with an awning hitting the street light post on the corner. An awning could be installed with two motors for about seven or eight thousand dollars. The cost makes it prohibitive at the moment and also lower on the list than a lot of other priorities.

Ed stated he was looking into getting a second credit card swipe machine (which is now installed) at the store registers.

Dick continues to look at trying to get an ATM in the store.

With regard to the Savings Institute Loan which Ellen proposed paying off at the last meeting, Ed stated that the loan provides a cash asset that is worth the cost of the interest considering that all other cash comes and goes to operating and long term expenses. Nancy added her support to maintaining the loan for business asset purposes. Ellen withdrew the proposal.

New Business:

Sheila brought up the need to set up a date for inventory. Claire Anthony has already done much of the preparatory work in this area. The discussion was brief and the date of Sunday January 3, 2010 was set as the inventory date.

Sheila stressed the need to have the store AC working by the start of summer weather. The heat in the store last summer was responsible for loss of product and customers and another summer without working AC would be very harmful to business.

The issue of Student Membership was discussed and clarified. Students can have up to four people on their membership, as can regular members. The reason is to be as welcoming to memberships as possible.

David brought up the store outside sign being half lit. He felt it should be turned off until the whole sign was lit. Dick explained that a ballast was out on one side, and the repair person was going to return and fix it. Suzanne and most of the Board felt half a lit sign is better than none. Ed agreed and thought it was good even half lit to draw attention to the store. The Board decided to keep the sign lit.

Open Mondays - Allen brought up that we now had enough Coordinator coverage to open on Mondays, and we were losing money by not being open Monday. Sheila stated that the Coordinators already decided not to open Mondays until February. Allen felt that was not their decision but the Board's decision. Sheila and Dick stated it needed to go back to the Coordinator's to decide. As there was a Coordinator's meeting later that week the Board decided to seek Coordinator agreement. (The Coordinators did agree to open Mondays starting in January).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15.

