

Board President Sue Phillips called the Fiddleheads Annual Meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Current board members were introduced. Past President Susan Zimmerman was recognized for her considerable contribution. Guests from Willimantic Food Coop, Patty Smith, Kirk Begg, and Joanne Todd, were recognized.

Board President Phillips listed the board accomplishments in the past year

1. Hiring Interim GM Wynston Estes
2. Hiring GM Lexa Juhre
3. Improving teamwork as a board

Board goals for next year are to monitor store performance to achieve a flourishing store, to plan for Fiddleheads future operations, to continue to improve our skills as a board, and to plan board succession.

A motion was made by Jim Stidfolde and seconded by Bud McAlaster to accept the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting as presented.

Wynston Estes, Interim General Manager, spoke about the turnaround in operations. Concerns when she became interim general manager were the low staff morale, the declining community involvement and the lagging sales. With the help of CDS Consulting Coop and with staff involvement, the coop has improved its sales, restructured staff to improve accountability, implemented Everyday Savings Program, reset store displays, resumed regular newsletter, and restructured owner equity. These changes were accomplished in the short time frame of six months and have successfully turned around operations. Our new General Manager will have solid operations to build on.

Our new General Manager Lexa Juhre spoke of the seven weeks she has been on the job. She already feels a kinship with the Fiddleheads community and thanked Wynston for leading the team to set Fiddleheads going in the right direction. Lexa compared the work ahead to a rhizome, which grows in many directions meaning the many projects she sees ahead to fulfill the Ends established by the Fiddleheads Board of Directors.

Lexa reported to Owners that in the first quarter of 2016, 154 new owners joined Fiddleheads. This is more new owners than all of 2015. Sales are up 6% in the first quarter and customer count is up 9%. Lexa expects to spend more time on the floor in the future and is interested in feedback from owners.

The board president thanked the annual meeting committee for its work in planning today's event. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.

A party followed. Music was provided by the Can Kickers. Food by Elisa Giommi.

Board election results as announced:

Directors re-elected--Sue Phillips and Mona Harmon-Bowman
Board appointees ratified--Ellen Clinesmith and Kelleen Giffin
Newly elected--Rachel Black

Susan Zimmerman, Minute Taker
May 22, 2016