

**Rising Tide Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
5:30 pm, Upstairs in the FARMS Kitchen**

Mary Ellen started the meeting. In attendance were: guest Karen Wales, Mary Ellen Barnes (president), Amy Leshure (treasurer), Sarah Matel, Michael Walter, Dwight Chamberlain, and Peter Lakis.

Mary Ellen made a motion to approve the November 12, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. Amy seconded. The board held voting until Dana arrived.

Michael gave a run-down of the financials, membership tally, and B6 report. He reported personnel updates. Rachel Button has started as outreach coordinator. He hired produce manager: Jillian, from Green Star in Ithaca, NY. Leslie Wicks has become our new merchandising coordinator. He will be posting for Wellness Manager next month. Candy Bordonaro has asked for and been granted a two-month leave. Michael reached out to Accountemps for interim support during her absence. The store has finished the first stage of repairing the pipes outside for the compressor. No walls will need to be disturbed. The Coops for Community recipient this month is the Community Investment Fund.

Sarah made a motion to accept Michael's board report. Peter seconded. The board held the voting until Dana arrived.

A group of people mainly comprised of Rising Tide staff entered the FARMS kitchen. Ronnie Pisco, Rising Tide deli manager, presented a letter in an envelope to each board member and asked that it be read after the meeting. Roughly half of the group then left the meeting.

Amy introduced the 2016 budget and asked if there were questions. After a brief discussion about it, Peter made a motion to approve the budget. Sarah seconded. The board held voting until Dana arrived.

Michael presented a slide show on National Coop Grocers, explaining what it is, what they do, and how it benefits Rising Tide. Last year, we paid roughly \$6K to NCG in exchange for their services. The cost is proportionate to sales. Mary Ellen read the member agreement for NCG to the board to approve and for Michael to sign. Dana arrived. Sarah made the motion to approve. Dana seconded. All voted in favor.

The board then proceeded to vote to approve the November minutes, the GM report, and the 2016 budget.

Mary Ellen talked about the co-op board leadership training in Keene, NH on Saturday, January 9. She urged board members to participate and to carpool.

The vote on the 2016 board calendar was moved to the January meeting.

Mary Ellen reported that Jon Weislogel submitted his resignation to the board. Sarah made a motion to approve his resignation. Jessie seconded. All voted in favor.

Jon's resignation left the vice president role open. Mary Ellen asked for candidates to volunteer to serve as Vice President. Peter Lakis volunteered. Mary Ellen moved to approve. Amy seconded. All voted in favor.

Mary Ellen reported that Peter Lakis and Jessie Trafton now comprise the nominating committee.

Karen Wales inquired from the audience about what the board is looking for in new members.

The board then moved into executive session at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Dana Wilson, Board secretary.