

AGENDA
GABRIOLA AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION COOP AGM.
MAY 5TH, 2018

Call to order: 11am

Quorum: 5% membership - yes.

Introductions: All members introduced themselves.

Board members present:

Christine Bletcher, Moira Nichol, Margo Anfossie, Laura Jean Kelly, Eric Veals and Jen Knight. Absent: Paula Maddison. Guest facilitator: Jan Pullinger

Agenda: Approved, not additions or changes.

Minutes from 2017 AGM. Read and approved.

Presidents Report: Christine

- Work undertaken by board, co-op members and Fay Weller and Jan Pullinger to realign ourselves with Co-op principles, including workshops and meeting with the 2 different member groups, the farmer/growers and the artisan/market vendors.
- This included joining the BC Co-op Association and the BC Farmers Market Association to benefit from their information, experience and knowledge moving our Co-op and Farmers Market forward.
- Applied for and received an RDN Grant for work to be done on the septic. We are currently engaged with a contractor on the work needed done before opening. The board also decided that if the work is not completed before the market opening, we will be renting a porta potty.
- We have initiated a by-law amendment with the Islands Trust to address the complaint made against us in 2017. This amendment is to amend the definition of Bylaw 186 Limited Public Market, subsection B 6.2 which states:
“Limited public market means an open air sale of goods and crafts during a maximum 2 days a week, between the hours of 8am and 4pm”
We are also requesting an amendment to remove the “open air sale” limitation of Section G “Definitions”.
These limitations put us in non compliance by having our market vendors inside the hall, it also means we cannot use our hall or site more than 2 days per week which restricts our own use of our building and site for our own purposes.
During this process we will not be held in contravention of the bylaw so our indoor vendors are good to be selling inside the hall and our kitchen vendor can sell their goods as well.
- David Andrews to go to the pertinent Islands Trust meetings and report back to the board anything that affects the Co-op.

- Scott Colbourne suggested changing the name of the hall to the AGI Co-op Hall. Discussion tabled till next board meeting, then put out to the membership.

Market Report: Christine

We received over 30 new vendor applications for the 2018 season. Unable to facilitate all, we have fit 15 more vendors in.

A plan is in the works to have local meats available at the market.

A new kitchen operator is completing the VIHA paperwork.

The market grounds (aka parking lot) will be cleaned and freshened in the last few days leading up to the long weekend to clear away the winter and spring clutter.

The Christmas Craft fair is booked at the Community Hall for Dec 9th, 2018 from 10-3. (some issues which will be worked on with the Market Vendors after the meeting.)

The AGI Coop website - Moira.

Website has been built and so far maintained by Colleen McCarthy. It is www.agihall.com. We are hoping to make more use of it in the coming season and encourage every one to use it. We did send a mailchimp out to all the members and have indications that most people got it. 3 people indicated they didn't. Christine will check with Moira that the email information is up to date.

The Farm to Table Feast - Lynn Bowerman.

- Date is set at September the 8th at the Commons again. New band from Vancouver being booked.
- Tickets going on sale in the first week of July, and will be available at the market, at Colleens, North Road Sports, Wishbone again.
- Selling 2 tiers of tickets, 1 for the dinner and music and one for the music only starting at 7pm. This ticket will probably include a complimentary cocktail.

Co-op Principals Report: Laura Jean

Laura Jean outlined the co-op principles and how they apply to us. Discussion around how we can have different member levels which would include different cost and voting levels.

New Business:

- 1: An online newsletter is something the board would like to get off the ground this year. Looking for volunteers.
- 2: Pets at the Farmers Market.

A very vigorous discussion around this subject, with some members witnessing or experiencing dogs fighting, jumping up on people and peeing and defecating at the market.

Pros and cons:

Pros: Dogs bring the people who buy the goods.

More “spur of the moment” visitors who are just out for a walk with their dog.

Too hot to leave dogs in cars if people are visiting for the day

Cons: Disruptive due to owners not paying attention. Not the dogs fault.

Urinate and defecate where ever.

The animals get excited and agitated by the noise and excitement and can act unexpectedly.

Some other thoughts were: If you make a rule it needs to be the same for all pets except service dogs. Too many rules. Less people will come to the market if they have leave dogs home or behind, especially visitors walking on to the ferry for the day.

Question around whether VIHA puts any restrictions on dogs at Markets.

A vote was taken 19 supported dogs being allowed at the market, and 8 were against. Laura Jean Kelly proposed that “we have an education program for one year where put larger, more visible signage at the entrances to the Market and we hire a couple of students every weekend to hand out flyers to visitors outlining our expectations to dog owners as they arrive at the market”. David Andrews 2nd. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Moira

Moira put a call out for a bookkeeper for the Coop as this is her final year.

Moira read the financials out. Proposal was made to accept financials as shown.

Motion carried.

Elections:

Standing for Election: Christine Bletcher - President, Moira Nichol - Treasurer, Margo Anfossie, Paula Maddison, Eric Veale, Laura Jean Kelly and Jennifer Knight.

Any other nominations from the floor 3 times: No more nominations. Board stands as reelected. Christine and Moira both announced that they would not be standing for reelection for the board in 2019.

Next Farmers Meeting: November 27th, time to be announced.

Meeting adjourned: 12:30pm.

An Operational Issues Meeting for Vendors

Called to order: 12:30

Facilitated by: Jan Pullinger.

Agenda:

Item 1: Market hours and enforcing market hours

Item 2: Signage

Lots of discussion around market hours and enforcement. Some vendors wanted to go back to 10 - 1, some preferred the main season hours and shoulder season hours with the main concern being consistency through the market season and year to year.

Discussion around enforcing the rule that vendor leaves the market early. To keep the market operating professionally and vibrantly we need all vendors to stay in place.

Points of concern were:

- We need more public signage stating the hours.
- Vendors leaving early is too disruptive to the vendors and to the market goers.
- Not professional to have the market “dribble out”.
- Some discussion on allocating the lower site to all farmers, food growers who sell out, so they bring their vehicles up, load up and go.
- Website and facebook pages need to be updated on hours etc.

Proposal was made to “have farmers/food producers who have sold out of their product by 1pm to be allowed to leave, but leave their booth in place with a “SOLD OUT” sign on their table and signage saying who they are and what they sell.” They can then make arrangements to come back themselves or allocate someone else after the market to pick up their stuff. Alternatively they could allocate someone to put it inside the building to be picked up on Sunday morning. They would need the code, and we would need to consult Daryl about this idea.

Scott Colbourne suggested having a volunteer roster amongst the farmers (which he would organize) to take turns in picking up the market stands and delivering them back to the farmers. Scott will talk to the farmers.

Enforcement of the “all vendors vehicles off the site by 9:30” rule was brought forward. We will talk to Daryl about reminding all vendors.

If a vendor is ill and needs to leave the market, they will need to check in with Daryl and arrange for a neighbor or someone to come after the market is over to remove their stuff. Will take this also to Daryl.

Fundraisers also need to observe the rule to stay on site, otherwise that leaves a gap.

Some kind of barrier needs to be erected (saw horses) at the market entrances to prevent people coming in early to buy.

One vendor asked about building a permanent stand to keep at the market, assuming all responsibility. Will take it the board, and then to the membership.

At the end of the facilitation, the following policy was agreed on:

ALL VENDORS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THEIR BOOTH FROM 10AM TO 2PM, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE FARMER/GROWERS/FOOD PRODUCERS WHO HAVE SOLD OUT COMPLETELY WHO CAN LEAVE AT 1PM. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THE BOOTH IN TACT WITH A SOLD OUT SIGN ON THE TABLE AND SIGNAGE INDICATING WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY SELL.

Signage:

- There is a need for more attention brought to the vendors down the side of and rear of the building and on the lower site.
- Discussion around signage or banners or a more celebratory feeling using tall coloured flags.

It was agreed by all that the flags would be a more attractive and inviting method of drawing people in. We are resolved to buy at least 9 and up to 13 yellow flags to indicate entrances and boundaries.

A vendor suggested making a “market safe” online courses information available to other food vendors via our website or facebook page.

Meeting adjourned: 2pm.