

Tom's Co-op Organizational Meeting
Monday May 20, 2024. 7:10pm
Kirkland Town Library

The Steering Committee opened the meeting by soliciting questions from the members assembled about anything related to the Coop, its incorporation as a consumer cooperative, or the proposed by-laws.

After about 15 minutes of general discussion, Jim Frederick made a motion to approve the by-laws as written. Seth Major seconded the motion. The motion passed with 22 in favor; no one opposed.

The Steering Committee then solicited expressions of interest in serving on the board. The individuals who expressed interest were Patricia Arcana, who works in real estate and served at one point on the Steering Committee; Denise Szarek, who has experience with co-ops in Ithaca, including Green Star, Moosewood, and Ben and Jerry's; Jim Frederick and Seth Major, who have both been serving on the Steering Committee; and Hillary Joy Pitoniak, who is involved with the GreenStar co-op.

Jim Manning suggested that members of the steering committee and potential board members consider what they anticipate how they might contribute to the work of the board. He indicated grant writing as a useful area of expertise. The DRI proposal received positive response, but the village is still waiting for allocation from NY State. At that point, the Board would need to reapply and to determine whether the current plan—to request rent support—is the most appropriate.

Seth Major pointed out that the Steering Committee has been meeting as needed, but that the Board would likely need to meet regularly and frequently in the near term in order to identify an appropriate space, hire a manager, and oversee the process of getting the store up and running.

The assembled members determined the following slate:

Board members

Patricia Arcana, for a three-year term

Denise Szarek, for a three-year term

Jim Frederick, for a two-year term

Seth Major, for a two-year term

Hillary Joy Pitoniak, for a one-year term

Mike Cosgrove made the motion to elect this slate of board members; Chris Ceely seconded the motion. The board was elected by 21 votes. There were no objections.

Seth Major then opened the board to general discussion. In response to a question about potential spaces, Pat Arcana mentioned that the original Tom's, the Snip and Clip, and a space in the building behind Giovanni's on East Park Row. Phil Giscondi suggested the building near the historical society. Someone mentioned that the Clinton Ale House has gone out of business. The

owners of the Great American have expressed a willingness to subdivide that space. The decision will depend on what spaces are available at what price points when the Board is in a position to initiate operations.

The meeting adjourned at about 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Thickstun, self-appointed temporary secretary