

Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market
Minutes of the Annual Meeting 19-Jan-2017
At the Dean Education Center, Thayer Unit, Waterville

Call to order at 5:37 pm. Kathy Chamberlain agreed to be notetaker.

In attendance were: Tom Roberts, David McDougal, Mark Heald, Hanne Tierney, Mark LaCasse, Kathy Chamberlain, Deb Vermette, Joanne Gorey, Fred Nassar, Karl Rau, Rachel Katz, Jean Koons, Don Kennerson, Donald Eskelund & Heidi Jacobs, Roger Collins, Courtney Williams & Ryan Clarke, and Clayton Carter.

Winter Market Manager Report – Deb Vermette. Winter market is going fine. Deb requests vendors post and share on FB which seems to drive more business to the winter market. She is working with Maine General for signage on market days put out in a timely manner. The need for a vegetable vendor for the winter market was discussed. Also discussed was a different location within the hospital for the market. Will discuss with Joy.

Summer Market Manager Report – Hanne Tierney. Hanne notes that space was snug as usual and expressed appreciation to vendors (especially seasonal ones) for their flexibility & understanding. Overall the season was good and suggested communicating with each other concerning absences in order to fill in gaps on market day. Higher WIC redemption possibly due to the timing of the distribution. Courtney took the WIC training. Fred notes professionalism of vendors. Clayton asked membership how they did. Some were ahead of last year and some were the same or not as good as last year.

Treasurer Report – Jean Koons. Handout attached. Motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passes unanimously.

SNAP Committee Report – Kelly LaCasse and Deb Vermette. Kelly not here. Tabled until later in the meeting.

Election of Officers:

Slate remains the same except for the position of secretary. Kelly LaCasse is not interested in serving another year. Kathy Chamberlain will fill the spot.

Winter Market: Do we want it to continue? The market is valid but needs committed vegetable vendor(s). Suggestion to hold the winter market meeting in March. Also suggested to make the winter market separate from the summer market. Discussion ensued about splitting the market, separate committee for winter market only, allowing vendors for winter market but not automatically for the summer market. A committee was formed to make rule changes for the winter market. Committee members: Mark LaCasse, Deb Vermette, Tom Roberts, Hanne Tierney. Will meet In March.

Waterville Main Street report: Buffy Higgins from Waterville Main Street was introduced. She is working on our behalf with the City to obtain funding. Has obtained 30k so far. She will double check with Maine General to make sure Market funding from them is secure. She will also notify Public Works about blocking Common Street early on Thursday when the Market begins. She will cover some publicity for the Market by cross- posting on FB. She will double check with the City electrician about having electricity available on Common Street. Contact person for Waterville Main Street is Tracy O'Clair info@watervillemainstreet.org. We should remind them to change our location on the Waterville Main Street website as well as feature our opening date and time.

New Location: We viewed a picture of Castonguay Square to see how the vendors would set up. We will most likely set up from the middle of Common St. out to Main and Front St. First come first served so to speak. Stone Fox Farm Creamery will have the last spot on Common & Front St. All vendor vehicles will be against the curb (away from the park) with tents in the street.

Promotions Committee – Karl Rau, Rachel Katz, Hanne Tierney, Courtney Williams, Mark Rollins, Sylvie Boisvert.

Courtney asks if we have ever talked to Colby College about a winter market location. Mark LaCasse will check with the Alford Center.

Motion made to enact a one year moratorium on new members until we figure out our new space on Common St. Motion carries and includes the winter market but the winter members could change that at their next meeting in March.

Summer Market Dates: Start 4/27/17 End 11/16/17

Discussion ensued about changes in the hours of operation. Some suggested 3-5:30 or 2-5:30 but a motion was made to keep the current hours (2-6) in light of the change in location. Motion passes.

New applicants and budget meeting will be covered in the March 2 meeting at 5:30 Thayer's Dean Education Center.

EBT – Motion made to continue EBT at the Market. Motion carries. Gina is still interested in running the EBT/Market booth. Clayton will provide weights for the tent.

MFFM Report. Harvest Bucks continues across the State for another year, however, this is the last year of the FINI Grant.

Snapshot Week – a program by MFFM to promote farmers' markets across the state.

Farmers' Market Trail – Washington County has one and MFFM is hoping to implement more by county.

MFFM Convention – the Market will send Clayton, Jean, Hanne with Fred on standby in case one of the others can't make it.

Changes in product offerings by members:

Fred Nassar-Eagle View Gardens- eggs. Motion made and passed to allow Fred to bring eggs. No other changes.

Vote on provisional members: Marr Pond. Discussion about allowing another veggie vendor. They were accepted for mushrooms primarily. Motion to make permanent vendor – passed.

Tree Spirit was not present, they have not submitted an application, and no one was sure if they were still interested in the market.

Music – Karl will organize the music/entertainment. Musicians will get \$40/market plus a basket passed at the market (voluntary participation for vendors). Starting early June.

Motion to adjourn 7:42pm Passed.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Chamberlain.