

Tri-Town Farmers' Markets By-Laws 2023

ARTICLE ONE-Organization

The Tri-Town Farmers' Markets will be composed of five board members (President, Secretary, Treasurer and two at large members) with equal voting power. New Board members must be elected with a majority vote to be accepted onto the board. Board must be composed by a majority of vendors.

Along with the Board, Tri-Town will also have a committee which will include one representative chosen by a vote of all vendors at each market.

The committee will meet no less than once per year, in addition the board will meet a minimum of four times per year. Annual meeting shall be held in the Fall after the end of the Summer season but before the beginning of the winter season

ARTICLE TWO-Mission

The mission of the TTFM is to support local agriculture in Maine by providing visitors and residents with fresh, local foods and locally produced agri-food goods in a welcoming and informative market setting that is operated by the producers of those goods

ARTICLE THREE-Eligibility

Any Farmer, grower or producer of Maine-harvested, grown or produced products as defined under Maine Revised Statutes Title-7, subsection 415 "Farmers Markets" shall be eligible for membership in the organization by agreeing to abide by the market rules and by-laws. To become a member, you must apply and be accepted for membership. Members will be allowed to sell their goods at the market after paying the membership fees and providing proof of applicable insurance(s) and licenses, provided that the market has not reached maximum capacity.

ARTICLE FOUR-Leadership

The President is to preside over the meeting, keep the Market's records (i.e.; the applications and licenses of members, the insurance policy and copies of the Maine Statute governing Farmers' Markets) The President term is for one year. The President is responsible for any vendor or farm inspection if deemed necessary.

The Treasurer's duties include keeping the finances and the checkbook and reporting at least once a year to the President and members of the TTFM. The term of the Treasurer is for one year, with elections at the annual meeting. They are responsible to collect all dues and other monies received from the market operations. The treasurer also pays out all monies as needed.

The Secretary's duty is to keep records, take notes at the annual meeting and assist the Market Manager when requested. The Secretary's term is for one year, with elections at the annual meeting.

Officers and vendors can be impeached by a majority vote of the board for failure to uphold or comply with State, Association or TTFM rules.

No one person shall hold more than one officer position at a time.

All accounts owned by the TTFM must be accessible by a minimum of two TTFM committee members.

If the board sees fit they may hire a person or persons to assist in the everyday operations of the market, this includes but not limited to, a market manager, parking attendants, social media design and advertising specialist.

The responsibility of the manager is to maintain the integrity of the Market and carry out the rules of the TTFM, mediate disputes among vendors or between vendors and customers. They are also responsible to take on or delegate vendor recruitment, public/town/state and commerce relations, advertising and coordination events.

ARTICLE FIVE- Meetings and voting rights

The TTFM has at least one annual committee meeting for Market discussion and for changes to be made to the rules and by-laws as needed. It is also at this meeting the Market's officers and committee chairs are elected each year. Failure to attend the meeting will forfeit the voice of that member in the proceeding unless an email vote has been called

All By-laws can be changed, added or deleted by the Committee at their meeting, in addition all rules may be changed by the board at any of their meetings.

Meetings at which votes shall be taken regarding changes to the TTFM, by-laws or rules shall require notification of all board members at least one week prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE SEVEN - Separability

If any portion of these by-laws are adjudged to be invalid or unlawful then the remainder of said by-laws shall remain in effect.