

## **Minutes of the 109th Annual Meeting of the Finland Cooperative Company July 26th, 2022**

Quorum reached: 264 active members (plus 9 who purchased shares or who haven't used their card but can be vouched for by store employees) - we have 34 members present and we need 27. Proof of meeting notice presented.

Call to order at 6:06 pm - Pledge of Allegiance

2021 Minutes Inspector Michelle Duhant, finds the minutes acceptable.

Motion by Michelle Duhant seconded by Sue Anderson to waive the reading of the 2021 minutes and to accept them as written. Passed. Michelle nominates Colby Abazs and the minutes inspector for next year - Colby accepts.

Board President Andres (Andy) Gomez Report - Welcomes everyone. Wants to thank employees for working so hard to keep the store going. Appointed Cory and Pete as new board members, will need membership to vote on them later. Andy would still like to push for community members to join the committee to work on the new building project. We are moving forward on the project slowly and could use help. Lots of possibilities and we would appreciate input from the community.

Store Manager Jonathan Beauchane Report - Jonathan introduces himself. He became manager in April, was Assistant Manager for about a year before that. Full financials, taxes are up to date this year. Go over financials - averaging \$25,000 in profit. COVID doesn't seem to have helped or hurt. Good financial health right now. Changed layout of the store. New parking lot. Today they finished the spill tanks for the gas tanks - leveled, up-to-date and up to code. Goal is to eventually move across the street - will take some time - need to keep the present store up and running. Upcoming projects: upgrading our original point-of-sale system with automatic online backup. Another project is replacing the loading dock on the Laurel Lane side of the building. New loading dock will be at a 45 degree angle to allow parking and to keep the delivery truck on solid ground. Prices are climbing everywhere. We do our best to keep prices down. Trying to let items sell down before we buy new and raise the price. Gas prices are similar. Try to keep the price low as long as possible. Now prices are going down, don't want to sell the gas for less than what we bought it for. We only make 4-5% profit on gas. Short on help. Looking for extra cashiers. Teenage workers have been helpful to fill the gap. Thanks all the employees for going above and beyond and keeping the co-op running smoothly.

Questions from Colby about the financials - fashion went up because of tourism. Advertising expenses went up but Jonathan would have to look into that. Regular ad in the North Shore journal and the ad in the NS Visitor's Guide. Professional accounting went up - used to use Licari Larson in Grand Marais - they restructured, so our accountant split off and started his own business. The expenses are for getting us up to date on financials and taxes. Should even out as we go forward. Contract labor was hazard pay using the PPP loan that was set up during

COVID and has now been rectified. David Abazs asks about hiring an assistant manager. Jonathan says it would be nice to have an internal promotion rather than hiring from outside.

Break for Door Prizes

Old Business: Honor gives a update on abandoned equity project. Thanks Bob Sanders for his work digitizing shares. Bob estimates over 30% deceased. Over 10,000 shares. Bob gives a lot of credit to his wife Joann for interpreting cursive writing - almost 100 years worth of signatures and record keeping.

Break for Door Prizes

Update on new building - Andy circulates a sign up sheet.

New Business: Nothing comes up.

Board Elections: 3 seats to vote on.

Cory Holden was appointed by the board to fill an open seat and needs to be confirmed by a vote from the membership.

Pete Walsh was appointed by the board to fill an open seat and needs to be confirmed by a vote from the membership.

Honor Schauland is stepping down so her seat is open.

Nominations from the floor. Sue Anderson nominates Bob Sanders. Bob accepts. Andy calls for more nominations. There are none. Since there are 3 candidates and 3 open seats, Andy calls for a motion to elect by acclamation. Motion by Colby, Seconded by Kaare, all in favor. None opposed. Motion passes. New members are welcomed to the board.

More door prizes.

Honor gives update on Co-operative Community Fund/Finland Co-op Scholarship. Kaleb Krech, Wyatt Parker, Amy Carpenter and Hannah Thums all applied and were awarded scholarships. Reminds people to round up their purchases or donate to support the Scholarship Fund.

Andy thanks Honor for her service on the board.

Shareholder comments: Colby talks about a story on MPR about a small town about to lose their grocery store and how they created a co-op and did a self service store that was open 24 hours. Willing to share info on how they did it if that is something the board is interested in.

Kaare thanks the board for doing a good job.

Lori is excited about the prospect of a new store - suggests running an ad for the building committee.

More door prizes.

Michelle won the 50/50 raffle and won \$50. The rest was donated to the Friends of Finland.

Every time members use your membership cards you're entered in the monthly drawing, but you are also entered in the yearly drawing for \$250. You have to be present to win. Honor draws the name and Pamela Melby's name is drawn! There is also a \$250 prize for the cashier who made the sale - Joan Beard.

Motion to adjourn made by David Abazs, seconded by Lori Walewski to adjourn at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Honor Schauland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Honor Schauland, Board Secretary