

**FINLAND COOPERATIVE**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2022**

**Board members present:** Sue Rian, Teresa Anderson, Katee Ristuccia, Cory Holden, Pete Walsh, Bob Sanders, and store manager Jonathan Beauchane.

**Absent:** Andy Gomez

**Others present:** Lucy Carlson (Friends of Finland)

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Vice-President Sue.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, with motion to approve made by Pete, second by Bob. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** No guidance in Treasurer duties given to Teresa so report was tabled and will be given at next meeting. Teresa asked if there was action needed on the scholarships awarded, but it was agreed at last meeting that actual awards would be contingent on receipt of first quarter or semester grades from each recipient.

**New Shares to approve and sign:** Jeffrey Kuebelbeck, Syneva Barrett, Jennifer Friest, Jim Unger, Steve Mayer, John Sundholm, Susan Taylor, Alice Silkey. A motion was made by Cory, second by Katee to accept new shares. All in favor.

**Special Presentation:** To be considerate for her time, it was suggested and agreed that guest, Lucy Carlson, (working with F.O.F) be allowed to share a presentation prior to new business discussion. Lucy discussed a USDA Community Food Project grant that may be of help toward new Coop building funding and/or Finland Food Chain collaboration, with potential grant amount of \$35,000. After some discussion about the scope and requirements of the grant, a motion was made by Katee, seconded by Bob to have Lucy pursue this potential grant option and come to next meeting with a draft of the proposal. All in favor.

**Land Committee:** No new news from Katy Jarvis. Pete mentions that he spoke with Nate Eide at Lake County about the Jarvis land directly across from the store, and that it appears to be designated wetland for much of the considered site which would require significant wetland credits and fill to be useable. Pete also mentioned the potential of building on the existing Coop site somehow, but it was acknowledged that doing so would disrupt business substantially. Jonathan referred to his draft letter looking for support from state legislators and foundation grants etc. with some discussion about modifications. Other properties in Finland were discussed including West Branch site (too close to river, not enough space, old building), and Four Seasons site which generated much discussion given the size of the property and location. Pete suggests that he can contact ARDC (Arrowhead Regional Development Commission) to get their wisdom about land purchasing and site development planning – all agreed. Good brainstorming session!

**Special 'drop-in':** Honor Schauland stops by for an update regarding some board transition items of note including the following: Slack App needs new administrator/s, and Katee and Cory offer to be administrators; Honor is organizing her Google docs from time as Secretary into the Coop's Google Drive folders (Honor is willing and it is agreed for her to come early to next board meeting [5:30 PM] to give a 'tech tutorial' on Slack, Google Drive/Docs, Zoom, etc.); Honor would like to continue helping with the Abandon Equity project with the need to confirm the processes involved in the transferring, selling, or patronage refunds of stock held by members (it is suggested that someone [Teresa agrees to] speak with former secretaries Judy Martell and Diane Lindberg, as well Coop Light and Power for their combined wisdom); The Coop Community Fund and its relation to scholarship awards etc. is discussed as well, with Honor agreeing to write up a summary of how the fund operates, and how to access it. Honor is thanked for her update and previous and ongoing efforts to support the store/community!

**Manager's Report:** \*Jonathan begins by going over financial report (with noted helpful modifications). Cory mentions that it would be good informational tool to include gross sales and sales by department info by the month with previous year comparisons. \*Loading dock is complete and came in under budget (approx. \$6000 vs. \$10,000 budgeted!). \*MN Petroleum came to vacuum the diesel tanks, and as suspected were able to pick up some deposits that they said are a result of added bio blend to the fuel. This did, in fact, cure the moisture readings that we had been getting from the tank sensors, and all the tanks are reading 0% moisture! The cost of the service has yet to be billed, but hopefully it won't have to be done any time soon. \*Jonathan brought draft updates to the Employee Benefits and Check Acceptance policies for review. A motion was made by Katee, second by Bob to approve "4 weeks vacation @ 10 years" addendum to the Employee benefits draft. All in favor. Jonathan will make revisions and have them ready to approve by next meeting. \*Advertising in the Lake County Community Guide is discussed as being pricey and not necessarily effective so will not be participated in. \*Repair of rearmost rooftop A/C and heating unit were needed, and will now be on maintenance agreement with Gardner Refrigeration for inspection and preventative maintenance. \*It was discovered that 2018 taxes were prepared but never filed! Hopefully there won't be detrimental penalties/fees resulting. \*Hardware Hank sent out a project planner solicitation regarding upgrading of hardware department/store facilities – Jonathan will look into. \*Next month is the Store Manager 6-month review. Jonathan asked about plans for hiring an Assistant Manager and mentioned that he is still considering in-house/outside hire, but for now wants to get a better grasp of store management needs before doing so. \*For the sake of continuity and oversight, Bob asks about responsibilities of employees involved in department stock ordering etc. and wondering if there are contingency plans in place and/or documentation about the extent of such duties if/when such employee would cease to be employed, and for purposes of accountability? \*The topic of share transfer from Tom Fitzgerald (deceased) to Phyllis Fitzgerald (wife) was discussed and motion was made by Katee, second by Teresa for such transfer. All in favor.

With all old/new business having been discussed in the above context a motion to adjourn was made at [ ?? ] by Katee, second by Teresa. All in favor.

Next regular meeting scheduled for **Oct. 13 @ 6 PM**, with 'tech tutorial' by Honor @ 5:30 for those interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Cory Holden, Secretary