**OVFC Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, October 31, 2019**

In attendance: Bob, Cheryl, Joanne, Marilyn, Gregg, Ashleigh, Chris, Marshall, Dwight, Sarah

Regrets: Dan

Guest: Megan Conway (her presentation only)

**1. Administration**

* Gregg took the chair in Dan’s absence.
* The agenda was approved with additions
* The minutes of the October 3 meeting were approved.

**2. Orders**

* October Sales were $8,244.39, a bit more than last year which was $7935. 67 customers ordered from 26 producers. The test drive is running from October to December. 18 signed and 7 ordered. Those who signed, how they found out about us:

4 – online

5 – Facebook

9 – word of mouth.

Of those who paid:

1 – online

2 – Facebook

4 – word of mouth.

Of the 18 who were interested, 3 ordered in error. One person could not be contacted so some stuff had to be returned. Cheryl sends an e-mail to new customers about orders but maybe a phone call is necessary. Ashleigh is willing to help.

There were a few issues on delivery day. One producer didn’t appear. We are encouraging our producers to manage their inventory such that products that are not available are either archived or the quantity set to zero.

**3. Financial**

* We are in the black at the moment. Our sales are sales are up and we are showing a profit of $700 on the current fiscal year. At the end of this year, we will be in a better fiscal position than last year.
* Cheryl is investigating grants in order to raise money to upgrade/replace our on-line ordering system.

**4. Marketing**

* Joanne got help from a graphical designer with our new posters. She will circulate them soon.
* Facebook ads are continuing.

**5. Fundraising**

* Lottery – no report.

**6. Strategic Plan**

* Joanne presented to sets of slides: *Board Roles and Responsibilities*and *Strategic Plan 2016-2019* (these were distributed to the board before the meeting). After some discussion, Joanne stated that she will produce a plan for the next five years for review at a future board meeting.

**7. Presentation**

* Megan Conway: work at Algonquin College and is a member of the co-op.

Recently she went to a local food store and noticed that all the apples came from Chili. Why don’t they come from Canada? She is interested in rural and community health and attended a conference in Finland on sustainable economies.

Is there a way that the food coop can address the challenges faced by local food stores and help fill in the gaps in there buying practices. We represent the valley. In fact we are about the only organization that can do this as well as we can.

How can we reach the average consumer. The big problem is labeling. Raw vegetables do not need a nutrition label but prepared products do. Many products are regulated.

Issues need to identified and tackled. How do we encourage our members to get involved with this activity. She gave us an example of how a group in Northern Finland is handling local food. She is willing to help us in this area.

This is an activity that needs to be done. In the future, as climate change becomes more pronounced, local food security will be necessary.

Marilyn stated that a food store in Killaloe is interested in stocking local stuff.

Marshall said that food processing hould be a major part of the economy in Renfrew County.

**8. Any Other Business**

* The Eastern Ontario Local Food is presenting a workshop in Belleville on December 5 on encouraging institutions to buy local. The Ontario Government is still trying to do this.

**9. Next Meeting –** Tuesday, December 3 at Bob’s place. 12:30 lunch, 13:15 meeting starts.