**OVFC Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Tuesday March 7, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

**Via Zoom**

In attendance: Connie, Chris, Dianne, Joanne, Cheryl, Marshall, Ashleigh, Sarah

**1. Administration**

* The agenda was approved as amended.
* The minutes of the February 7 meeting were approved.

**2. Orders**

* January sales were $10,108 compared to $12,782 last year. 79 customers ordered from 40 producers.
* 2 new members paid and purchased. Both of them found out about us by word of mouth.

1 – Facebook

1 – Word of Mouth

* One producer didn’t show up. Cheryl sent them a warning letter, but has received no reply. This producer had a small order – somewhere between $100-$200.

**3. Financial Report**

* Joanne stated that she had received no feedback on the budget. The co-op will loose money this year and cannot afford any unnecessary expenses.

**4. Increasing Sales**

* Marshall stated that the co-op had not been utilized as much as it should be. We need to try to convince caterers to consider purchasing food for events from the co-op.
* Wholesale Pricing – Is it possible for producers to establish a wholesale (or bulk) price scheme. This topic should be raised at a meeting with producers where the details can be worked out. Our current ordering software doesn’t have a “wholesale” category, but we probably can set up something.
* We should be able to get other groups such as farmers organizations and local governments to help us increase sales.

**5. Annual General Meeting**

* Hopefully it will be held at the Snodrifters Building (near Eganville) on a weekday evening.
* There was a discussion on possible speakers. Two people mentioned were Zach Loeks and a local chef.

**6. Seedy Sunday**

* The food presentation went well and the film *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva – A Documentary* was seen by a good number of people. Thanks to all those who helped.

**7. Newsletter**

* it was suggested that we add a new section highlighting producers specials up to a total of ~5 per month. Connie will send a prototype to the board for comment.

**8. Gold Course Dinner**

* No news
* Chris mentioned that the Deep River Community Church is interested in partnering with the coop for a similar event possibly at Thanksgiving Time.

**9. Local Food and Farm Co-ops**

* Tabled until after the AGM.
* We should have discussions with nearby groups. We do not need to join the LFFC for this.

**10. Farms Open**

* Tabled until after the AGM
* We will need more volunteers especially among farmers for this event.

**11. Other Business**

* Ashleigh mentioned that depot managers are tasked with the job of accepting cheques from consumers and depositing them. While this doesn’t happen very often, since most transactions are done by E-Transfer, it could become a burden for depot managers. Should we ask depot managers if they are willing to keep acting in this role.

**12. Next meeting – April 4.**