

**Approved: Minutes of the Grain Train Board of Directors Meeting**

February 16, 2010 - 6:00 PM

Brother Dan's Food Pantry

**Present:** John Paul Westbrook - president, Amy Maus - vice president, Hal Willens - treasurer, Trisha Shattuck - secretary, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Maggie Daniels

**Absent Board Members:** Gary Hammons, Jaime Jankowski, Renee Allen

**General manager:** Carrie Livingston, not in attendance.

**Staff visitor:** Jack Laurent

**Our Mission:** The Grain Train is committed to empowered individuals, vital communities and a healthy Planet. As a Natural Foods Cooperative, we are the trusted source in northern Michigan for high quality, local, organic and natural products at a fair value to our membership and community.

---

**Call to order:** 6:03 PM

**Quorum determined.**

**Open Member Forum:** Postponed until later in the meeting.

**Approval of January Minutes:** Hal motions to accept the January 2010 BOD Meeting Minutes. Amy seconds the motion. Discussion. Vote: Maggie and Allie abstain because they were not present at the previous meeting. Four vote to accept.

**Next meeting:** March 16, 2010 6:00 PM, Brother Dan's Food Pantry. Secretary to arrange for library room usage every third Tuesday of the month.

**General Manager's Report:** The GM is not in attendance and no financial documents were forwarded to the Board for review.

Treasurer reviews minutes from the Finance Committee.

**Old Business:**

**Strategic Plan** tabled until the March meeting.

**Board of Director, Code of Ethics Policy:** The last section of Page 3 in the document beginning with the words, "Not fraternize" was struck. This section was deleted during a previous Board vote, and mistakenly included in the printing. Documents were signed by those in attendance. Documents were collected by the secretary for filing. Secretary to e-mail the revised document to the Board. Jaime and Gary's signed documents are outstanding.

**April 17, Board Retreat: Establish a Retreat Committee** to set agenda. Amy commits to planning the menu.

**Open Member Forum:** Jack Laurent describes the Boyne City meeting to gauge interest in the opening of a **satellite store**. 80+ signatures of support. Jack asks the Board to reflect on what will the GT do next. Feasibility studies, market research and financial evaluations must take place first. An additional store increases the GT purchasing power effecting the cost of goods.

**Motion:** Hal motions to prepare a **brief Board statement** that corrects community misunderstandings related to the possible opening of a Boyne City satellite store. Allie seconds the motion. Unanimous approval. Secretary to prepare brief statement for release.

**Letter from Member / Owner regarding the GMM:** Discussion. Request of Treasurer's Report. Allie has send it. Treasurer to hand out reports at the next GMM based upon Bylaw requirements.

**Motion:** Allie motions to e-mail 2010 Secretary's minutes from the General Membership Meeting out to the Membership and place a link to it on Facebook and Twitter. J.P. seconds the motion. Unanimous approval.

**Motion:** Allie motions directing the General Manager to include Links to approved Board of Director minutes from March 2010 on, in regular e-mail communications with the Membership, and to place a link to Board of Director minutes on the Grain Train website, Facebook and Twitter. J.P. seconds the motion. Unanimous approval.

The Board empowers Allie to form a committee to flesh out communication methods with the Member / owners. Allie requests standard BOD meeting times and locations. Preparation of a Calendar on the website with links.

Family Day at North Central Michigan College - Sat. 3-6 PM. Board members to attend.

**Motion:** J.P. motions to go into Closed Session. Allie seconds the motion. Out of closed session - 8:13 PM. Back to New Business.

**Motion:** Trisha motions to suspend Carrie Livingston without pay beginning Monday, February 15, 2010, pending future formal action by the Board. Amy seconds the motion. Unanimous approval.

**Motion:** Allie motions to allow the Board to post information on the Grain Train website regarding the potential use of genetically modified alfalfa (GMO), during the public comment period prior to a USDA decision. Allie to write an informative comment on the subject for posting. J.P. seconds. 4 vote in support of the motion. 1 abstention.

**New Business:** Board Members to forward motions in advance of Board meetings, to the Secretary for preparation into BOD Packets, to be e-mailed to BOD ten days in advance of meetings. This will allow the BOD to understand motions thoroughly and speed meetings.

**Tabled:** Proposed Communication Policy - Calendar of Events website addition, Alcohol Policy, additions to the Strategic Plan, Preparation of Goals for the Retreat & Retreat Committee.

**Adjournment:** 8:20 PM