

Portland Farmers Mkt. Steering Committee
Minutes of Meeting
January 21, 2021 6:00 pm via Zoom

Welcome by Carolyn. Those in attendance:

Carolyn Snell/Snell Family Farm
Heather & Doug Donahue/Balfour Farm
Austin Chadd/Green Spark Farm
Cindy Creps/Meadow Ridge Perennial Farm
Hanne Tierney/Cornerstone Farm
Ruby Nelson/Merrifield Farm
Beth Schiller/Dandelion Spring Farm
Jody & Caitlin Jordan/Alewives Brook Farm

Membership Update & Rule Change Language for Contingency New Farmers:

Cindy gave an update: Non-returning members Fishbowl Farm and Ocean House Farm Cindy has not heard from, or been able to reach, Old Sheep Meadow Farm. She will try to reach out to them more before the February 6th meeting, but is currently under the assumption they will not be coming back.

Balfour Farm's daughter will be joining them in their market space with vegetables, flowers and seedling. They do not anticipate needing more room for set up.

The question was presented by Carolyn as to whether or not we should vote on new applicants at the upcoming February meeting...discussion turned to how a vacancy was filled last year mid-season when a vendor dropped out permanently. There were concerns about the process of how the vote was done in Feb. 2020...when two current members were approved as Saturday members, should an opening come up during the season. This was done to avoid having vacant spots for the remainder of the season. The two vendors had been voted on by the membership, and were ranked based on their market seniority. A permanent vacancy came available in July, and Fairwinds Farm was the vendor who was next in line, according to the Feb. 2020 vote...so they became a vendor at the Saturday Market..

There was some concern that this may have caused some vendors to pressure another vendor to drop out...or this process could become a "backdoor" way of people getting into the Saturday Market by way of the Wednesday or Winter Market.

Carolyn explained the process that was used last year, and why. After her explanation, it was clearer to the steering committee as to how it came about.

There was further discussion surrounding filling the vacancies for 2021. Pros and cons of filling 1 slot or none, based on physical spacing. A question was asked if the by-laws state what a

vendor space size is...it does not. Carolyn said she will continue to use the temporary paint to mark vendor spaces, even after we go back to the regular set up (after COVID).

There are six applicants for the Saturday Market: Three are current market members; one is a temporary Winter Mkt. Member; and two are new applicants.

It was decided that the decision of whether or not to fill the vacancies would be put to the full-membership at the beginning of the next meeting. In any event, the applicants can present themselves, and be voted on to be put on a "waiting list" for 2021 only, should any mid-season openings arise (and also be voted on if we decide to fill any of the vacancies). All new applicants will be made aware that there may not be any openings for 2021.

It was discussed as to how the voting will take place, as the meeting will be a Zoom meeting...and the current way of voting by secret ballot will not be easily doable. Other options were discussed including utilizing online polling, online ranked voting or voting in person (or by voice if on the phone). Carolyn will look into options and put the question to the full membership before the next meeting. Hanne noted that the reason the market switched to secret ballot a few years ago was because some vendors felt bullied into voting certain ways when the vote was held by raise of hands.

Rule Change, language for buy-ins. Hanne started the discussion with a little background of how the current rule came to be, and why. It was decided the current rule of voting on buy-ins requires an extra meeting each winter, and the rulings have not been enforced. Hanne suggested we adopt the State's 25% rule. More discussion ensued about whether it should be 25% of a vendor's gross sales or 25% of total number of products per market. (The State has purposely left it vague.) It was agreed that it should be 25% of the total number of a vendor's product per market...new wording will be presented to the membership in February to be voted on.

Update on FODO Volunteers to put out "night before" barricades. Update by Carolyn. Friends of Deering Oaks as no volunteer base. We still have the dilemma of how to get barricades put up the night before a market so that no vehicles are parked in vendor spaces on market mornings.

Carolyn recommended we try to only find someone to put the signs out on Friday nights for the Saturday market...as Wednesday's market is less of a problem as there are fewer vendors. Beth has offered to check with someone she knows who lives in the Portland Area. Carolyn will check to see if the market can pay the City to have one of their employees do it. The Market will allocate money in the budget to pay someone to do this...we can also offer to pay them in tokens. A minimum rate of \$20 per time was discussed.

Also brought up...would the City put up, or allow signage, denoting "No Parking" on Tuesday and Friday nights?

Covid Protocols: Carolyn will make the Covid Protocols available on Google Docs so all steering committee members can make comments on it, so the 2021 Covid Protocols can be prepared.

Prior to the next meeting (February 6, 2021) the budget will be updated to be voted on and the SNAP Committee will be meeting.

Hanne reminded Carolyn that any rule changes need to be approved by the City.

Meeting adjourned: 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Karonis
Secretary