

## Minutes of Membership Meeting 3/16/2013

Attendance: (arranged by farm)

John & Carolyn Snell

Mark Heideman

Larry Bruns

Scott Howard

Mary Ellen & Austin Chadd

Hanne Tierney and Clayton Carter

Jaime Berhanu

Daniel Price

Lauren Pignatello

Jessie Dowling

Doug and Heather Balfour

John Carter & Cynthia Flores

Jodie Jordan

Mike Farwell

Robbie (for Simon Frost)

=10 votes needed for a 2/3 majority

left early: Jessie Dowling

came late: Beth Schiller

### **New Vendor Candidate's Presentations:**

Commonwealth Poultry, Whitefield

- moved to Whitefield, sharing infrastructure with Treble Ridge Farm
- selling duck and Certified Organic chicken
- would like to bring Treble Ridge pork
- ideally would like to share a table with Treble Ridge Farm (pork and vegetables).

Treble Ridge Farm, Whitefield

- ideally like to share booth with Commonwealth Poultry
- Certified Organic Pork" 13 flavors sausage, bacon, boneless chops/ribs
- produce and fruit: late strawberries, heirloom melons, husk cherries, storage crops, all Maine-raised grains for feed. Grow 20 acres grain for their own feed, and buy in Maine grains for the rest. 1 acre of perennials, 2.5 acres annual vegetables, 2,000 crowns strawberries.

Fresh Pickin's Farm, Limington/Windham

- 15 acres, vegetables ¼ acre total.
- 3 acres flowers for bouquets
- Xmas trees, firewood
- Mushrooms: grow at home kits of oyster mushrooms, shitake logs, wild foraged Chaga mushroom tea bags/tins.
- Bee hives with raw honey, lip balm, hand salves
- Early season: basil and onion starts

Frith Farm, Daniel Mays, Scarborough

Farming 2.5 acres vegetables, herbs and flowers, organic eggs, organic heritage meats: chicken (500 birds/yr) turkey (100), pork (20-30), grass fed lamb (12). 1 acre of veggies to market, other produce goes to a CSA at the farm.

Left Field Farm, Sean Hagan, Bowdoinham

First year on 7 acres mixed veg, cut flowers, herbs, 2,000 crowns strawberries. Small CSA with pick up in Portland. Garlic planted last fall.

Rockin' M Farm = No show.

Up Beet Farm, Porter

Moved from NY to Maine, Start-up farm on 4 acres: 1.5 acres cropped. Growing only heirloom vegetables, getting certified organic. Like biointensive, no-till, biodynamic systems. Starting health food store in barn. Nutritional vegetables banner. No CSA.

Liv w/ Roz Farm = No show.

Misty Brook Farm, Albion.

Moving from MA this month to former Perkins Farm in Albion, Maine. Farmed 220 acres: cornmeal, wheat flour, rye, popcorn (2 ac), dry beans (3 ac), raw milk. Tamworth, etc. heritage pigs. 15 sows, finish 60-70/yr. Grain 40-60 ac., vegetables 5 ac, 30-40 Jersey cows for milk and cheese, 16-30 beef cows, 10-13 ground beef, 2,000 broiler chickens. Eggs: 100-150 doz/week. Milk 300 gal/week. Cheese 12,000 #/ year gouda.

Old Mill Farm, Brownfield

Vegetables – peas, tomatoes, etc. 2.5-3 acres. Raspberries, 1200 crowns strawberries, blueberries too. Grass-fed animals, 100 hens, 6 pigs. Pies in season, small and large pies. Cut flowers, pickles: Dill, and Sweet Dill.

Two Farmers Farm, Scarborough

1,000 crowns strawberries, 1.5-2 acres year-round vegetable production, first year on new land. Focus on winter production and winter greens.

Prospective candidates leave. Meeting & Discussion begins.

Hanne proposes motion to accept Blue Hill Berry, prospective member of the market, as permanent member. Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>.

13 in favor

0 opposed

2 Abstained

Motion passes.

Discussion: Wednesday vs. Saturday. Should folks who are in on Wednesday have seniority over new members being admitted on Saturday?

This is not perhaps appropriate for the winter market now.

Daniel motions to address the winter market's new vendor admittance at the upcoming April meeting. Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hanne: For the purpose today's meeting, we are voting on four spots for Wednesday annex.

Discussion of winter market vendors and lack of cohesion with summer market. What time of year should we vote in new winter market vendors? Do summer vendors have seniority to join the winter market? We should be including winter market vendor admission in our membership meeting according to our bylaws, but current summer market vendors want to sell in the winter market next year. Summer vendors must be notified that we are making decisions about the winter market before we admit new members.

Unanimous Yes! Motion to address winter admission at April meeting passes.

Process will be:

Motion

2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion

Vote as a way to narrow down the list of applicants, which will narrow it down to our priorities, then those prioritized candidates are voted on (a second time) for admission to the market.

Beth Schiller & Larry: Discussion of who is in the annex and where Beth's booth will be on Wednesday: in the square or not? As long as her truck fits, she could be in Richard's former spot for Rippling Waters. (Richard is moving to Chris Cavendish's spot in the square.)

After looking at the minutes of a previous meeting due to Daniel's recollection, Jaime notes that we are actually voting on 3 spaces in the annex, not 4.

Discussion of tent space in annex: Balfour wants 2 tents. Larry is unsure. One City Center requires a 10' right of way through market from their parking garage. As long as it fits without disturbing this or other vendors, it could work.

Discussion of members. Discussion raised by Larry of needs for the market.

Initial (not official) vote to narrow down the process:

Daniel motions to accept Common Wealth Poultry Company, LLC, formerly Common Wealth Farm. Carolyn 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Larry recalls problems with this vendor not maintaining proper meat temps, not using coolers. Other vendors disagree.

In favor: 13  
Opposed: 2  
Abstaining: 0

Daniel motions to accept Fresh Pickin's Farm. Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Mark: There are inconsistencies in their application, their presentation of their acreage. Carolyn: I'm sure if you ask my dad and me our acreage, you'd get two different answers. Mary Ellen: Mushroom kits are just bought in plugs, resold. Hanne: So are other flowers, and many of us do that. Mike: But they have mushrooms!

In favor: 1  
Opposed: 4  
Abstaining: 8

Daniel motions to accept Frith Farm. Carolyn 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Mary Ellen: He has very high quality practices, a large crew for his scale farm, and has organized farming practices.

In favor: 10  
Opposed: 3  
Abstaining: 2

Daniel motions to accept Left Field Farm. Austin 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Who is he? Mary Ellen: He is very experienced on large CA farms, applied to work for me last year, I've seen his resume. He ended up at Six River Farm in Bowdoinham, and now he is taking over some of the land Chris Cavendish is giving up.

In favor: 3  
Opposed: 5  
Abstaining: 7

Daniel motions to accept Up-beet Farm. Mary Ellen 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: banner.

In favor: 3  
Opposed: 8  
Abstaining: 4

Daniel motions to accept Misty Brook Farm. Mary Ellen 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Since they are moving from MA, should they be let in now, or wait until they are established farming in Maine?

In favor: 6  
Opposed: 4  
Abstaining: 5

Clayton motions to accept Old Mill Farm. Daniel 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: Daniel: Mennonites, they moved to Maine recently. Larry: are these the people who make pies? Yes.

In favor: 9  
Opposed: 1  
Abstaining: 4

Daniel motions to accept Treble Ridge Farm. Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Discussion: Hanne: these are the folks who make a rift and put out advertisements slandering non-organic pork; it's not very neighborly. Discussion about whether they can be voted to share a booth with Common Wealth Poultry: Hanne: No because they submitted separate applications, so we are not voting on them to share a booth. If next year they applied together, maybe that would be different.

In favor: 3  
Opposed: 6  
Abstaining: 5

Austin motions to accept Two Farmers Farm. Daniel 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Discussion: Clayton: have they even farmed yet? Mary Ellen explained they ran the Arnold's farm for 6 weeks while the owners were in Alaska. Larry: they have their greenhouse in the shade of a barn that will fall down on it. Austin: they are just starting to set up their farm.

In favor: 10  
Opposed: 0  
Abstaining: 4

Discussion of Misty Brook Farm: Daniel: Why are we allowing small vendors in and not this diversified farmer?

Daniel Motions to vote on Misty Brook Farm again. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Jaime.

For: 10  
Opposed: 3  
Abstaining: 1  
Motion passes.

Daniel Motions to accept Misty Brook Farm if they will not bring crops, grains, or other product from MA for sale at our market (which would be against state law). Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Jaime. Hanne will contact the Dept of Ag if this farm is accepted to make sure the market and this farm follow the State laws.

Discussion: we voted for much smaller, less diversified farms. We are voting on whether we will consider Misty Brook Farm for one of the final 3 spots in the Wednesday annex.

Discussion about Misty Brook Farm. Jaime: grains and beans when grown in Maine would be great at our market, they could bring their first Maine crop in the fall and winter. They are very diversified. Carolyn: If they are really good farmers,

I want them in our market. Doug: 40-60 acres of grain. Beth: These people have less animals and vegetables than my farm.

Second vote on Misty Brook Farm:

In favor: 7

Opposed: 4

Abstaining: 3

Top four candidates from initial vote:

No. of members voting:	Prospective Farmers	No. of YES votes=
15	Gina & Ryan Commonwealth Poultry	13 yes
15	Daniel Mays Frith Farm	10 yes
14	Old Mill Farm	9 yes
14	Kelsey & Dominic Two Farmers Farm	10 yes

Discussion on whether it's important to vote a second time: YES always!

Although, the vote will be almost the same.

Final Voting for Admission to the Market:

Gina & Ryan = 9 yes = IN

Daniel Mays = 13 yes = IN

Old Mill Farm = 8 yes = if there is room in the annex

Two Farmers Farm = 9 yes = IN

The rest of the meeting: other business

Carolyn: market brochure approval of your contact info

Hanne: Lot of concern about liabilities, Hanne took proposed license, our bylaws and rules to a private lawyer (Dick Spencer at Dummond, Woodsum & Etc. law firm) for rewording/corrections. The lawyer had similar concerns about the market's liability. The lawyer has reworded the license agreement. The lawyer reported to Hanne the City was asking for a type of insurance that we cannot get (doesn't exist?).

Portland City Council thinks we need to go in front of the PSHHS committee regarding extending Saturday's hours.

We should vote on our new license agreement in April as a market before we go to full council.

We should approve covering these lawyer costs today in our proposed 2013 budget before we leave Hanne to pay them.

April 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Saturday, 2 pm.

At the April meeting we may want to amend our rules and bylaws to vote by proxy for members who cannot attend meetings.

Treasurer's report (see separate document). We cannot vote to accept this report today because it's not completed. We aim to have it completed by April meeting.

Proposed annual budget (see separate document).

New Business: joining local community organizations, membership fees will need to be added to the budget. Local organizations such as Friends of Deering Oaks, and Portland Downtown District.

Daniel motions to pass proposed 2013 budget. Beth 2nds.

For: 13

Opposed: 0

Abstaining: 1

SNAP committee: requests that each farm sign up to count tokens one market a year. As a back up so that others know how the system works. Please sign up on sheet passed around today, or contact Jaime to reserve your counting date.

SNAP/Market Info booth Hiring committee: Carolyn, Colleen Hanlon-Smith (wrote the grant to pay for this position), Jaime, Hanne. Advertisement will be released soon. We must be more clear about our hiring policies and practices now that we are a non-profit. Plus, the job description is changing.

Item for April meeting: Clarify our Association application regarding winter summer market.

Jodie and Balfour, Freedom Farm all interested in being in winter 2014 market. Existing winter market member are already in. Do summer vendors have seniority over new applicants?

We need to develop a committee to fill empty spots for winter market absences. Discuss this at the April meeting.

Larry relates new business: Meadowbrook Farm, Apples in Fall, wants to move up closer to middle of market. Should he get a closer spot due to his seniority? YES. If he notifies the new neighbors on either side of him in his new spot.

Mary Ellen relays that November weather affects customer attendance and asks if the November market should consider moving indoors, would this create more synchronicity with the winter market? Carolyn relates their farm prefers outdoors

and they still do a good deal of business outside in November. Scott and Lauren relate that as soon as they move inside for the winter market, their sales go up.

April Meeting> Discuss winter market having a concurrent indoor and Monument Square market. Discuss Lauren's Anderson St. Location.

Meeting Adjourned 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen D. Chadd March 24, 2013.