

Draft Minutes
French Broad Food Coop
Annual Owners' Meeting
October 27, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. The meeting began at 6:05. Twenty-four (24) owners attended; we did not have a quorum.

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome remarks and overview of meeting
- Introduction of Board members
- Review agenda
- Minutes of the 2021 Annual Owners' Meeting reviewed
- Presentation of steps taken to make ownership more accessible
- Report from General Manager, Bobby Sullivan
- Expansion update, Sage Turner
- Owner comments
- Introduction of Board candidates
- Costume contest
- Honoring staff
- Farewell to out-going Board members

Welcome remarks and overview by Board President Adam Bowers

Board members present tonight briefly introduced themselves.

Adam reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Owners' Meeting were posted on the screen for all to read. Voting on approval of the minutes will take place along with Board elections.

Christa Hamilton explained the initiatives we have recently taken to make ownership and participation in the co-op more accessible:

- Made ownership more affordable by offering an alternative to the current structure of \$25.00 per year for 10 years. The alternative is \$12.50 per year payable over a 20-year period.
- In partnership with DUFEB (Double Up Food Bucks), we are offering a scholarship to cover the annual ownership fee for every DUFEB participant who would like to become a co-op owner. Scholarships will be funded by donations from co-op shoppers.

General Manager, Bobby Sullivan, gave a store review and update. The complete report is included after these meeting minutes.

Finance and Project Manager, Sage Turner, gave an update on our expansion project.

- Sage shared a slide presentation of the expansion work as it has progressed.
- We are currently finishing Phase two of the four-phase project. Phase two includes restoration, deferred maintenance, and replacement of large facilities and equipment – new kitchen, new roof, new walk-in coolers, new freezer, insulation, central heating & air, structural repairs, stormwater. Phase two is scheduled to be completed in the next few months.
- Phase three includes a new building between the two existing buildings, creating one larger store. We plan to take a year to adjust to our new larger space, grow steadily, and begin planning for this phase.
- Phase four is mostly parking lots, landscaping, and final touches.

Owner Comments posted in “Chat”:

- Jill Ashley – Will we be bringing the community room back and local programming upstairs above the store?
- Charles Rhyne – Bicycle co-op. Downstairs. What’s that connection?
- Sage – Who’s making all the ads these days? They look amazing. (Answer: Amy Zimmerman – Thanks, Amy!)
- Jill Ashley – Renewable energy integration into the new parking lot in the next phases and for the store itself? Duke has a lot of rebates for renewable energy these days.

Board members will follow up with responses at a later date.

Introduction of nine Board Candidates:

Attending tonight are: Christa Hamilton, Nick Fury, Clare Schwartz, Jill Ashley, and Kitty Love. These candidates briefly introduced themselves.

Other candidates not in attendance are: Jerome Smith, Nikimbre Daniels (message was read), Laura Ann Edmonds (message was read), and Aine Dee (message was read).

Costume Contest – The winner among owners is Matt Neill, the black-eyed “P.” The winner among Board members is Christa Hamilton, the flower vase.

Gift bags will be available for all of tonight’s meeting attendees. Please drop by the store to claim yours.

Honoring Staff – A slide show to honor staff was presented with numerous photos of staff members in action.

Honoring out-going Board members – Tonight we say “Farewell and a big thank you” to out-going Board members Paul Schulman and Peyton O’Conner.

Additional owner comments posted in “Chat” near the end of the meeting:

- Mark - Thank you BOD. It is a pleasure working at the coop. Looking to many more years.
- Many “thank you” comments (posted in the chat) expressing appreciation for Paul and Peyton.

Closing comments from Adam Bowers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Jean Karpen
FBFC Board Assistant