

**Draft**  
**Mabou Farmers' Market - Annual General Meeting**  
**April 11th 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Andy Pedley, Jaymie Aucoin, Andrew Tubman, Andrew Larkin, Rob Martin, Susan Geddes

**Members Present:** Nikkey Elizabeth, Mary Ellen Godin, Gabi Baumann, Frazer Hunter, Lisa O'Neil, John Frank, Peter Bushmann

**Community Guests:** Madonna McInnis, Kerry Walkins (Market Manager), Georgia McNeil, Laurel Brown

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Andy Pedley, Chair of the Board called the meeting to order welcoming all in attendance and noting the change to a virtual AGM. The members in attendance met the minimum of 12 required for voting.

As the AGM was held virtually documents, including the agenda were emailed to participants prior to the meeting. No additions to the agenda were noted and we were able to proceed.

Andy introduced the board and noted that Nikkey has been sitting in on recent board meetings.

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan Geddes (Secretary) directed those in attendance to view the minutes of the last AGM held in October on the MFM website and gave an overview.

Susan moved the minutes be adopted as written. Lisa O'Neil seconded. Approved.

**Market Manager Report**

Kerry Walkins (Market Manager) gave an updated report on the numbers for the 2020 season, noting they were quite different to those of previous seasons due to Covid 19 restrictions resulting in fewer tourists.

The addition of a hand held door counter made for a more accurate count of customers in the 2020 season. Highest customer count was the final market in October (Thanksgiving weekend) of 576, the lowest being 301 attendees at the July 13th market. Sales statistics were also reflective of attendees, vendors reported the highest sales, approximately \$10,000 Thanksgiving weekend with the lowest of \$3880 at the July 13th market. Sales data reported for the entire season was \$100,930.

39 full time vendor members applied for the 2020 season, 26 of whom attended and there were 36 casual vendors.

Taking advantage of the good weather additional vendors were able to set up outside, as a result there was only one occasion (and one vendor) who was turned away over the entire season.

Volunteers were a huge asset in implementing public health guidelines at the market this past season. In total 9 volunteers took part in the 2020 season for a total of 97 volunteer hours. Of important mention is John Frank whose continual support and expertise is invaluable to the operation of the market. The addition of Madonna McInnis at the merchandise table has single handedly improved the record keeping and cash handling on market day, happy to have her back for the 2021 season.

The 2020 season certainly had it's challenges and Kerry handled every one of them with professionalism and grace. Kerry has worked hard to improve on last years market and in the 2021 season there will be a new layout allowing for more vendors while continuing to abide by public health restrictions with physical distancing still in place. Georgia McNeil will be returning as Market Manager this coming season and we are all looking forward to 2021.

### **Question**

Lisa O' Neil raised concerns over the issue of vendor samples at the market which has yet to be addressed (they were not allowed due to public health restrictions in 2020). Kerry attended an FMNS meeting where the use of samples were raised and Justin (from FMNS) plans to address this with the government. Lisa requested both vendors and board members attend the FMNS AGM to voice their concern over this issue.

### **Financials**

Andrew Larkin presented the Profit and Loss statement for the period of November 2020 to April 2021, these were also sent out via email to all members and AGM attendees to review. The 2020 season was largely possible due to a Government subsidy obtained to offset losses due to the Covid 19 pandemic. For the 2021 season the addition of vendor spaces compared to the 2020 layout and table fees set at their pre-pandemic rate will allow the market to be self sufficient.

Changes to the financial operation of the market for the 2021 season include a bank account for the Market Manager to access and streamlining financial reporting data through the use of Square reports.

### **Question**

Georgia McNeil inquired if the subsidy will be continuing for the 2021 season? The market is looking into Government subsidies and relief programs as they are being announced with the intent of applying for those that are applicable.

Andy Pedley moved to accept the financials as presented. John Frank seconded. Approved.

### **Board Vacancy**

The board has a vacancy for one vendor member. Andy Pedley nominated Nikkey Elizabeth to fill the vacancy. Nikkey has been sitting in on board meetings over the winter and is very keen to join. Nikkey is known for her tasty keto treats and her business, La Femme Nikketo is a staple at the Mabou Market.

No other nominations from the floor were brought forward.

Andy moved to approve Nikkey Elizabeth as board member. Peter Bushmann seconded. Approved. Welcome Nikkey!

### **New Business**

An update was made to the Rules and Regulations which can be viewed on the market website. The update addresses membership eligibility criteria in which a vendor seeking membership had to attend 15 markets in the previous season. Due to public health restrictions, there were only 13 markets in the 2020 season making this eligibility criteria impossible to obtain. For fair and equal membership the eligibility criteria has been updated to 15 weeks in 2019 and/or 10 weeks in 2020.

No other questions or comments were brought forward. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

The first market of the season is set for Sunday, June 6th 2021 with both Georgia and Kerry in attendance. Looking forward to safely seeing you all there!