

Approved 1/16/2018

Grain Train Natural Food Cooperative  
Board of Directors Retreat December 9, 2017, 9:00 am  
First Community Bank Boardroom  
Harbor Springs, MI

**Mission:** Making a difference, one bite at a time.

**Ends:** The Grain Train Natural Food Cooperative exists so that our community is inspired to make well-informed healthy choices that support both people and planet.

**In attendance:** Meagan Krzywosinski – President, Lynn Wolf – Vice President, David Heidtke – Treasurer, Mark Blaauw-Hara – Secretary, Jim Tisdell, Hal Willens, Paula Welmers, Allie Greenleaf Maldonado, Robert (Bob) Struthers – General Manager, Liz Meeks – Support Services, Ben Sandel – CDS Consultant

**Absent:** John Paul Westbrook

**Welcome**

Ben thanked the Board for attending and introduced an opening exercise.

Participants shared 90-second narratives.

Ben reviewed the retreat packet and agenda.

**Strategic Decision Making**

Ben reviewed the factors in the macro- and micro-environment that influence any business decision and emphasized the need to evaluate these factors in order to prepare for decisions and opportunities.

The group identified the most important factors in the Grain Train’s macro- and micro-environments.

**Simulated Site Decision**

Ben presented two hypothetical expansion scenarios and asked participants to answer the questions: “What do we think we know?” and “What do we need to learn before making a decision?”

Ben reiterated the importance of completing this preparation work in advance in order to make a swift decision when opportunity arises.

**Mission and Ends Discussion**

The group discussed key words and phrases from the Mission and Ends statements, focusing on “inspired” and “making a difference”.

**Review of Action Items**

The Board identified the following next steps:

- Identify new ways to interact with co-op owners, develop a communication strategy.

- Clarify the co-op’s importance to Petoskey’s Downtown.

- Prioritize options for the future.

- Define needs to be met in the future.

**Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.