

# **Board of Directors Candidates**

2016

Quabbin Harvest /  
North Quabbin Community Co-op



## **Karl Bittenbender**

The excitement and expertise of the founders of the Coop was a marvelous discovery when I was invited to join the expansion effort. Since then I have become addicted to working with the fantastic volunteers and staff who are so diligent in making this dream into a reality. I look forward to continue helping with the finances and operation and maintenance of the building



## Michael Humphries

I am impressed with the courage and enthusiasm everyone showed given what I think is a bit of a daunting task you have ahead of you. I believe you are all aware that the road ahead will be mostly uphill and somewhat rocky for a while. One of you expressed that they were suffering from “pathological optimism.” Glad to hear it. I feel I myself am stricken and yet inspired by that same malaise. It’s hardly ever easy to start a business and ones centered on food are I believe a little more tricky.

I think there is a need for the Co-op. Not necessarily just because of a demand for better food but as an institution to help people learn about healthy foods, readily available. However, success will be dependent on sales and memberships. How to get people interested in what the Co-op can offer them and build their awareness of its presence in the center of Orange are important fronts that need to be addressed in order to increase memberships and sales. I heard your board’s suggestions and concerns

I am interested in serving on your board. Truthfully I have a number of other obligations however I am hoping to be retiring from the demands of my woodworking business this spring and expect that I will then have a little more time that I might be able to give to the Co-op. I am at least optimistic, perhaps

The idea of Sunday hours seems to be one of the most effective efforts for increasing sales that a Trustee could take on and interests me the most. I know it has difficulties but they are not insurmountable. Limited hours (see first bullet below) and only a few reliable volunteers could manage the task. I am sure it is worth at least discussing the possibility.

- Trustee and Deacon for my local church in Warwick.
- Development Committee member for Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.
- Weekly (3 Wednesdays/month) trucking of food from the Western Mass Food Bank to the Orange Food Pantry. Packing into single and family bags and boxes afterwards.
- Advocate member for the North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy program.
- Food safe certified volunteer for Warwick Meal Site



## Margot Parrot

I have been an advocate for locally grown organic food since the early 1970's, when I raised my family in rural Maine. I moved to the North Quabbin region four years ago to purchase a small farm for my retirement. As a newcomer to this area, it was important to me to meet people who shared my views on the environment and green living, and the Co-op provided me with many new friends, as well as healthy local produce. Since that time I have actively volunteered at the Co-op: working weekly at the OIC store; serving on the Outreach Committee; taking on the role of Membership Secretary for 6 months; doing the closings for the member loan campaign; working on preparing the new store; helping in the back office with filing; doing inventory. I have 100 happy, free range chickens who supply eggs for Quabbin Harvest. Thus, it is very much in my own self-interest for the Co-op to thrive.

## QUALIFICATIONS

As indicated on my attached resume, I have served as a board member of numerous community organizations, on governmental boards and commissions, and on political committees. I have frequently held the position of Board Secretary, and I have been the Treasurer of one state political campaign and one Democratic Town Committee. In the private sector, I have owned and operated three businesses: a retail store on Martha's Vineyard; a law firm; and my current farm. I do business accounting in Quickbooks; I have used Microsoft Publisher for marketing; and I also personally created a web site for my store using Yahoo web tools. I am familiar with Microsoft Office, including Word, PowerPoint, Access and Excel. I have some limited familiarity with social networking sites and would be willing to learn more. I hold a BA from UMASS (Amherst), and both JD and LLM degrees from Western New England School of Law (Springfield), where I currently hold the position of Adjunct Professor of Law. As a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, I serve as the Co-chair of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee. I am also a trained Mediator. My personal interests are broad, ranging from homesteading to art to politics. I believe my skills would be useful to the Co-op Board and I am eager to serve.