Application Form For the Franklin Community Co-operative Board of Directors

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Please answer the following questions (will be available for all member-owners to read):

Why do you wish to serve on the board?

I believe in the co-operative ideals, and I love this particular co-op. I have served on the Board during the time of hiring our current (and wonderful!) general manager. I have been part of this Board as it has moved toward being a more effective and functioning group. I would like to be part of the continuation of this process.

What do you see as the significance of the co-op and your relationship to it? The co-op is an anchor business for the area.

This co-op has a special place of importance in downtown Greenfield and Shelburne Falls. Both towns would feel greatly the lack of these stores. The co-op provides good food, organic and local, to the community. It supports the growth and development of other co-ops in the area. It provides an alternative to the large, corporate food stores in the area, and supports local farmers. O love being a part of this co-op community, and supporting its continued presence in Franklin County.

How has your work/life experience taught you the general skills listed on page 2 of the Board information sheet? Please be specific.

I have training and experience as both a teacher and a counselor, and as such have studied and used group process and communication skills extensively. Both of these positions have also demanded strict confidentiality and I understand the importance of that. I am able and willing to meet the time requirement ans I am continuing to learn more about policy governance and the financials of the co-op.

Which of the specialized skills (also listed on page 2) or other community organizational experience would you bring to your board service? Again, please be specific.

I have other co-op experience—several food co-ops and a bike co-op. My partner and I have a small business, and I learned a little about marketing in that context. This is my only B.O.D. Experience. I have served 1 full term and a few months when I was appointed to fill a vacancy. I have a fair amount of experience growing food in gardens for family consumption.

After reading the enclosed article, "Policy Governance and the Role of the Board," do you have any questions, concerns, or comments about Policy Governance?

Policy Governance is a complex beast, which I am learning more about. I am bothered by the "negatives" in the language in which it is written. It does seem to be a vehicle which enables accountability on all sides. And since It can be modified to meet needs of specific groups, it has some flexibility.

Is there anything else, relevant or irrelevant, that you would like us to know about you?

I have a good sense of humor and believe that this job can be fun. I enjoy interacting with the personalities I have met on the board—and we are a DIVERSE group—and we have made such progress in interacting in functional rather than dysfunctional ways.