

2025 Member-Owners Ballot Information

Annual Meeting Nov. 12, 5pm at the Wing Center on Main St.

Proposed Bylaw Revision:

4.1 Powers and Duties. The Board shall be composed of ~~nine (9)~~ **ten (10)** directors and one (1) Student Member.

Board of Directors Election

We have three 3-year term open board seats.

We have one 1-year term open due to the resignation of a board member.

If the Bylaw Amendment passes we will have an additional seat open that would be filled via election the following year. If passed, the board will appoint the fourth of this year's nominees to fill that seat. That nominee would then run next year for the full 3 year term.

Board Nominees



Jessica Seddon – One Year Term

Jessica is running as an incumbent. She has served for one term (since 2022) has been the board chair since early 2023. Over this time, she has worked with the board to update the strategy through survey and community consultations in 2023; update governance and work with the Co-op general manager to join the National Co-op Grocers Association in 2024; and build toward the ongoing expansion of the Co-op's retail and storage space.

Jessica sees food as a way to bring people together, and at the same time to expand horizons and build a sense of connection to other places. Food also creates openings to highlight our interactions with the environment and other species. Originally from Westfield, VT, she has owned a house in Morrisville since 2012. She lived in India for 11 years and has traveled extensively and with attention to food (Latin America, Middle East, Asia). She has 25+ years of teaching, writing, program management/leadership on sustainable development across U.S., Latin America, India, and with global programs.

Board Nominees for 3-year Term



Brooke Mars

Hi, I'm Brooke - a born and raised Vermonter and someone who values what our co-op brings to the community. I've worked in everything from local resorts to outdoor brands, with experience

in events, customer service, marketing, and just keeping things running smoothly. I'm all about clear communication, pitching in where needed, and making sure everyone feels heard. I'd love the chance to bring that energy to the board and help keep the co-op thriving.



Hope Sullivan

I'm excited to run for the Morrisville Food Co-op Board because I see the co-op as a hub for healthy, local food and community connection. As a member and Morrisville resident, I

want to help the co-op thrive and grow in ways that serve everyone.

I bring nonprofit leadership and board experience, currently serving as Executive Director of Vermont Studio Center, where I oversee strategy, budgeting, and community engagement. I also have strong local connections and a passion for food systems, sustainability, and community building. All skills I hope to bring to the co-op.

As a member of the Board, I would work to ensure that the co-op remains a welcoming, vibrant space that champions local producers, expands educational programming, and stays accessible to all. I know challenges like rising costs and supply pressures exist, but I see them as opportunities for creative solutions and stronger community partnerships.

I'd be honored to serve on the board and help guide the Morrisville Food Co-op as it continues to nourish our community in every sense. Thank you for your consideration.



Michael Croce

My name is Michael Croce and I'm a 29 year resident of Vermont. I found my way here after graduating college with a degree in Marine Engineering. I

spent several years working on Merchant ships traveling around the world and in my off time I travel this country in my van. I ended up in Santa Cruz in the nineties and the organic, local food movement was more than a decade ahead of anything here on the East Coast. When I was ready to find some land of my own I sought something similar to where I grew up in the Catskill Mountains of New York. My first summer here I got a part time job on one of the local organic farms to learn more about gardening and sustainable living. This spawn my journey of healthy lifestyles, local enterprises and sustainable lifestyles. I spent my early years here working on many organic farms while building my own. I first started selling CSA shares off my farm in 1999. After that I started sales to restaurants and farmers market. My first market was the year-round Wednesday market at the River Arts in Morrisville, and I soon worked 4 markets a week in the Lamoille Valley. It was at this time that the idea of starting a co-op in Morrisville began. I wasn't an early member of the Morrisville Co-op because I was a member of another local co-op for over 2 decades, while also spending a term on that Co-op's board.

I am starting to learn about the Morrisville Co-op's growth and also the challenges it faces moving forward. I hope to provide a unique perspective as a local farmer and business owner. When not on the farm I enjoy adventures with my 2 rescue dogs or some down time by the water.



Paul Stewart

I'm applying for membership to the Board because I've got the knowledge and professional experience in public health, regenerative agriculture and not-for-profit

Boards of Directors that should meet your expectations. Above all, I've always been an advocate for the environment and the need to maintain a balance with human interaction and development.

I graduated Vermont Law School in 1982 and moved back home to Long Island. But my wife Karen and I have always wanted to return. Since moving to Vermont in 2019, I joined NOFA and gained experience with regenerative and organic farming and CSA's. I've had previous experience with food Co-ops in Madison, Wisconsin and Brooklyn, New York. As a hobby, I've endeavored into small-scale organic farming during the warm season and aquaponics, the process of raising fish that nourish lettuce and other greens growing in adjacent grow beds, during the winter.

Morrisville Food Co-op is an excellent model for the community and Vermont. I think there are more Food Co-ops in Vermont than anywhere else in the Country, but many in Vermont are fighting for survival. The key to success is to make the Co-op better known to the neighboring communities along with the reasons why there is such good quality food and so many members. I remember my first visit to the Co-op a couple of years ago and had trouble finding it. Now my car drives itself there.