

# Rescue Plan Task Force Proposal

*Leverett Village Coop February 2020 V4*

The current approach is not working. The operational plan and management decisions have left the store deeply in debt to vendors and service providers. Income projections have been overly optimistic, and sticking to budgets has not been happening.

The current store trajectory is dire. We need to quickly assess the situation and develop options. Many people have weighed in on what could or should happen, but the information has been diffuse and not available for the whole board nor the community to weigh out.

*Proposal for a Task Force to get back on track:*

A small working group of outside experts, board members, and community members will quickly assess past activity and the current situation of the store. Then they will develop viable turnaround options for the store in areas of cost efficiencies, grocery, kitchen, management, staffing, outreach, and community connections.

This Task Force would operate independently of the board and is charged with making recommendations to the board as well as reporting to the membership directly. Decision-making for recommendations to the board by the task force will be by consensus minus one, when possible, and as a backup, by majority vote. If there is no consensus amongst the task force regarding any particular recommendations(s), they will be encouraged to present detailed alternate ways of addressing the disagreement

The people on the task force (maximum of 10 members) are:

*Outside Experts-* Initial members who are volunteering their time:

- MaryJo Johnson, served on the board of the High Falls Food Coop for five years. As President she introduced the Carver Method for Policy Governance and a consensus based model for decision making that incorporated board, management and staff.
- Cory Greenberg, Consultant, Co-operative Fund of NE Advisory Board, formerly Loan Committee
- Erbin Crowell, Director, Neighboring Food Coop Association
- Pete Sylvan, owner, Cushman Store

*Board and Staff:* TBD, 2 members of each, chosen by the board

*Community members:* TBD, 2 members, chosen by the outside experts

Suggested Timeline for the LVC Board and appointed Task Force:

- Members of Task Force receive digital copies of current proposed Board plan, and access to financial records Immediately after the next Board meeting Weds. Feb. 5.
- Task Force confer and send responses to Board by email by one week following receipt of proposed Board plan
- Task Force meets with Board for next publically scheduled Board meeting to discuss their recommendations and revisions, ideally by February 21.
- Management posts Task Force Recommendations on Co-op website as soon as possible after this meeting.
- Board makes decisions and posts and communicates plan moving forward by end of February.