

Gray Village Farmers' Market
By-Laws
Adopted 03/21/2021

ARTICLE 1. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Gray Village Farmers' Market Association.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The mission of the Gray Village Farmers' Market is to build relationships of trust and trade in the local food system. We do this by creating, promoting, and operating a producer and maker farmers' market in the town of Gray, Maine that will provide residents access to fresh food, and locally made artisanal products, encourage community activity in The Town of Gray Maine, and stimulate public interest in and awareness of local farm products, thereby supporting local agricultural producers and development of community resilience.

This Association is responsible for setting market rules and guidelines for vendors participating in the Gray Village Farmers' Market .

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

Any home gardener, farmer, or producer with Maine homegrown or homemade products shall be eligible for membership in the organization by agreeing to abide by the by-laws and established rules of operation. Members will be allowed to sell after paying membership fee and providing proof of applicable insurances and licenses, provided the market has not reached capacity. Only those who participate in the market will be considered members; i.e. membership will not be granted to those on the waiting list or to guests. The right to vote on any matter shall be restricted to members in good standing with this association.

ARTICLE 4. LEADERSHIP

Agency of the leadership of the Association is derived from the land and the community. The leadership group of the Association consists of four leaders derived from the general membership. At annual meetings of the general membership, the leadership group is assembled from the general membership of the association for an annual term. The general membership will elect from within the membership 1) a Cultivator , 2) Weaver, 3) Tracker and 4) a Purse.

Section 1 Duties of the Leadership.

The Leadership will be responsible for (1) caring about the operation of the market and setting policy for the Association; (2) arranging all meetings of the general membership; (3) general administration of the association's activities, including power to authorize a leader to pay bills approved by the Leadership; (4) appointing special committees as needed; (5) advertising and promotion by newspapers, radio, television, or other means; (6) investigation of any suspicious or questionable practices or violation of market rules by any seller. If verified, the Leadership is authorized to immediately enforce corrective action or cancel the offender's membership; and (7) relations with the Association.

The Association shall meet annually, or as necessary. In the case of vacancy on the leadership group, 2 leaders may appoint an interim member to said vacancy between annual meetings.

Section 2 Duties of the Leaders.

Cultivator- The Cultivator shall be responsible for (1) setting the agenda and presiding at all meetings of the Association and Leadership, and generally supervising the business of the Association; (2) calling regular or special meetings and attending to all administrative duties expected of a president's office; (3) signing checks upon the authorization of the Leadership; (4) work with the Gray Community and Economic Development Committee to actively advertise, promote the market.

Weaver- The Weaver shall be responsible for (1) maintaining member records of proof of liability insurance and applicable licenses (2) coordinating weekly member duties to assure that the site of the market is clean and compliant with lease terms; (3) determining the market floor plan and (4) mapping the region for producers and makers that could become members.

Tracker. The Traker shall be responsible for (1) keeping record of all meetings and sending out meeting notices, minutes, and other information to the general membership as directed by the Leadership; (2) polling members by phone, or email when such votes are necessary; and (3) performing other duties as directed by the Leadership, as expected typically of a secretary's office.

Purse. The Purse shall be responsible for: (1) maintaining custody of all funds of the Association; (2) managing accounts payable and receivable; (3) keeping record of all dues and other money received from the market operation; (4) recording any money paid out and report on the foregoing, whenever requested; (5) depositing, in a timely manner, all monies received in a bank account authorized by the membership; (6) signing checks upon authorization of the Leadership, and; (7) filing all tax and corporate forms.

ARTICLE 5. FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There shall be an annual meeting of the full Association membership, at which time a new Leadership Group will be elected and the market rules and Association By-laws may be reviewed and/or amended. This meeting shall be held in the late fall, after the end of the market season. The Leadership will set the date of this meeting by September 30th. Notice of the meeting and a meeting agenda, including all proposed amendments, must be sent so that members receive notice at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

All matters brought before the Association at a duly authorized meeting shall be decided by a majority vote. A quorum is a creative imperative; at least 50% of the general membership is required to bring the future of the market into view, i.e. to conduct business. Votes shall carry by a simple majority of those present at the meeting. Members in good standing, either in dues or sponsorship, shall have the privilege of voting at all Association meetings. Each vendor membership shall have one vote.

ARTICLE 6. RECORDS

Each member shall have the right to examine, for any reasonable purpose, the books, records, roster of membership and other records of the Association.

ARTICLE 7. DUES

The annual dues and daily market fees for the next market year shall be proposed by the Leadership annually and approved by the membership. In no case shall market members be allowed to attend market without having first paid their annual dues, or set up a payment plan. Annual dues shall be paid by May 15.

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

ARTICLE 8. AMENDMENTS

The articles and by-laws outlined may be amended in whole or in part by a simple majority vote of members present at any regular or special meeting, providing that the proper two week advance notice of such revision or amendment was included in the call of the meeting.

ARTICLE 9. DISSOLUTION

In the event of liquidation or dissolution, all remaining funds in the Association's purse shall be distributed to current members, regardless of chronology of such patronage, on the basis of respective patronage contributions as shown on the books and in the records of the Association, insofar as practicable, and after satisfying all debts and other obligations of the Association.

