

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE OLD STONE HOUSE

September 11, 2020



Photograph by Caroline Mardok

By Frank Haberle

Long before there was a Park Slope Food Coop (or a Park Slope neighborhood, or for that matter, any “Slope” at all) there was the Old Stone House. In 1699, Dutch settlers built a little stone farmhouse by a marsh, on land that had been occupied and used by the Lenape tribe for thousands of years. In August 1776, during the Battle of Long Island, a key battle in the American Revolutionary War, this small building became the focal point of the battle, changing hands between the British and the Americans several times, as the Continental army slipped over the Gowanus. Later, the building became the clubhouse of the original Brooklyn Dodgers; was buried as part of the re-grading of the current neighborhood; and was then reconstructed, along with the surrounding Washington Park, as a WPA project during the 1930s.

CHECKING IN WITH JOE HOLTZ ON COOP LIFELINES

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Joe Holtz hopes we can find a way to expand the Coop's hours from 77 per week to 112.

Photo Zachary Schulman

By Leila Darabi

Six months into the Covid-19 pandemic, the Coop is working on increasing store hours, allowing more members to shop at a time and other strategies to bring more cash in the door.

General Coordinator Joe Holtz described these efforts in an interview with the Gazette in which he also shared an update on finances, delivery and member labor. “Bringing back member labor is the most important essential element of our Coop. It’s the most unique, foundational, spiritual thing about our Coop,” said Holtz who is also the Coop’s treasurer and co-founder.



JULY GM OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVES BLACK LIVES MATTER STATEMENT

September 11, 2020



Illustration Tommy Kane

***“The Park Slope Food Coop unequivocally supports Black lives and the dismantling of all systems that propagate and empower systemic racism
#BlackLivesMatter”***

Coop Finances, Temporary Markup Strategy, Return to Member Labor Also Explored

By Frank Haberle

Coop members overwhelmingly approved a statement of solidarity and support for the Black Lives Matter movement at the July general meeting after a number of members expressed disappointment that it took so long for the Coop to take a stand on such a heartfelt issue.



GM FEATURES FINANCIALS, FOOD, AND FRICTION OVER BLM STATEMENT

September 11, 2020



Illustration by Maggie Carson
By Hayley Gorenberg

The June 30 GM veered from troubling financials, to a mouthwatering description of what luscious summer produce is on offer, to an online near-uprising over public positioning on Black Lives Matter.

From the outset several hundred attendees learned there would be no open forum or voting, though Zoom polling figured prominently and became the subject of many members' ire.

BLACK SEEDS OF FREEDOM

September 11, 2020



Photograph by Taigi Smith

By Taigi Smith

It was June 18 and after four months of seclusion, I was on my way to tape an interview at the historic Abyssinia Baptist church in Harlem. I had been producing television from my home for the past four months and I was desperate to get out and see the world again.



PROPOSED PSFC STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES MATTER SUBMITTED BY THE DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY COMMITTEE

September 11, 2020

The Park Slope Food Coop supports the Black Lives Matter movement and a dismantling of all systems that empower and enable systemic racism.



AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING: BLM FOLLOW-UP WITH TOISHA TUCKER

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Interviewed after the GM, member Toisha Tucker expressed disbelief that the Coop had not spoken up, even after earlier killings of Black New Yorkers like Eric Garner (and many others). Tucker linked food justice, climate justice and racial justice as intertwined and called on the Coop to engage in “reckoning with racism and white supremacy in America.”

