

NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's Name: Peter Garbus

Candidate's Town or City: Shelburne Falls

Year Member Joined: 2006

Nominations for the directors shall be made by petition, signed by at least three members of the Co-op. (Only one signature per member number for this nominee.)

I nominate the above candidate to run for a seat in the 2025 Board of Directors election of Franklin Community Cooperative:

1. Member Name (print): ~~William O'Sullivan~~
Lise Berkovits
Town or City of Residence: Shelburne Falls member # F225
Signature: Lise Berkovits
Year Member Joined: # 2
2. Member Name (print): Mark Benjamin
Town or City of Residence: Shelburne Falls # 1039
Signature: Mark Benjamin
Year Member Joined: 1993
3. Member Name (print): Bill Deters # 1156
Town or City of Residence: Shelburne Falls
Signature: Bill Deters
Year Member Joined: 1986

Date Received: 1/15/2025

Please Return Form To: BOD Clerk, by January 31, 2025

FCC BOARD NOMINEE QUESTIONNAIRE

PETER GARBUS

SHELBURNE FALLS/RETIRED EDUCATOR

Why do you wish to serve on the Board?

The Franklin Community Co-op stands poised to make a significant difference for the city of Greenfield and Franklin County. Many think that's been the story for years; such promise, yet has happened yet. I served on the FCC board for eight years before hitting my term limit. I am running to rejoin the board for another term in order to help bring the co-op's planned relocation and expansion into reality. I'm also running to help realize the second item of our Ends Statement, which says "The co-op will supply healthy, reasonably priced foods. . . ." The board, with the engagement and support of our membership, can bring about these two consequential outcomes.

How has your work/life experience taught you general skills, and which specialized skills or other experience would you bring to your board service?

I spent my professional career as an educator, teaching high school English and Social Studies for 12 years and serving as a school administrator and leader for 22 years. Over that time, I learned how to work with others, how to focus on the big picture while attending to important details, how to manage complex organizations and finances, and how to find the right questions to ask. Specifically important for the FCC board, I learned about human resources, both what to do and what not to do. In my years on the FCC board, I contributed to the board's effective functioning in meetings and organizing the board's documents and procedures. I also successfully coordinated the co-op's member loan campaign, raising \$1.6 million towards the expansion project. Perhaps most important, I learned a great deal about our community and food systems. Since my recent retirement, volunteering with Stone Soup and the Center for New Americans has deepened my knowledge about our community, something that will be very important as the board thinks through how the co-op might serve an expanded community for its expanded Greenfield store.

Any thoughts about the Policy Governance approach?

It took me some time to understand how a policy governance approach can best serve our co-op. I have found it to be useful in general, but best when adjusted by common sense. The board uses articles, model policies, workshops, and consultant guidance for the foundations of policy governance, and then it tries to adapt these structures to best meet our needs. I feel this kind of balanced approach—*independent thinking guided by sensible theories*—makes the most sense for our co-op.

Anything else?

I am an optimist and a realist, both needed to lead a successful organization. I look forward to resuming my service on the board and ask for your vote.