

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM
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March 16, 2023

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TO: SALS Board of Trustees

SUBJECT: COSAC Board Member Appointment

For your consideration. Mary Beranek would like to be considered for appointment to the SALS COSAC.

Here is Mary's bio:

I was initially drawn to Comfort Food Community because I missed the feeling of working in the fields of small organic farms, operating within community supported agriculture, and helping customers and farmers at a small food co-op. I was eager to work and share part in the local food economy again, to get my hands back in the dirt, and to help imagine and create a food hub in the beautiful rural community I grew up in. My previous work experience included organic farming and CSA work in Oregon, Massachusetts and New Zealand, and networking and organization of the beginning stages of the UP Food Exchange in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

My grandfather was a farmer in Easton and although his was no longer a working farm when I was a child, I used to imagine and admire all the hard work his hands had done. My grandparents' old farmhouse, their barns and fields, hold some of my best childhood memories - my first love of farming came from my admiration and love for my Grandpa Wright, and the beauty of Washington County. Upon moving back to the area with my two children and learning how much CFC had grown, I knew I possessed the experience and desire to be a part of their mission of building and nurturing community through feeding those in need, while strengthening and investing in the local food system. The opportunity to do so on the farms and in the town where I grew up was hard to pass up.

I truly enjoy having the capacity to support local farmers in conjunction with the ability to recover food and broaden food access across the three counties where our Food Recovery Program delivers food. Being a part of the growth and success that our Farm-to-Library and Free Food Run programs have had has been wonderful, it's heavy and rewarding work!

Thanks so much!