

Millstone Cooperative

Creativity * Open Communication * Environmental Sustainability

Social Justice * Communal Ownership

Dear Folks at MCC:

Greetings from Millstone Cooperative! We are an eleven-member cooperative in Somerville, MA committed to creativity, open communication, environmental sustainability, social justice and communal ownership. We are passionate about exploring the complexities of consensus-based decision making and radical democracy, supporting each other in our work to re-envision human relationships and global economics, and discovering the best way to cook lentils and other vegetarian delights. We are creating a non-profit corporation, Boston Community Cooperatives (BCC), that will provide technical assistance to local cooperatives (existing and newly-forming) and financial assistance to them for the purchase of properties where they can make a permanent home. BCC's first project will be a purchase of a house for Millstone. We then anticipate working with a near-by co-op, Teal House, to purchase the house that they currently occupy. We are raising funds for the down-payment for the Millstone House, and hope that you might assist us with a loan or suggestions of other funding sources.

Most of the current Millstone members lived in campus cooperatives previously, and the original idea for Millstone grew out of a group of students who lived together at Princeton's 2D co-op. After college they were seeking a more inter-connected and socially responsible way of living, so they moved to Boston and leased the property where we now reside. Since then we have grown to include many other members from a broad range of backgrounds. Our efforts at expansion, long-term stability, sustainability and community involvement are hampered by our current renting situation. We hope to find a house where we can welcome new members (we currently have 6 people hoping to join us in our new site) and serve as a resource for other cooperatives and activist groups. We plan to provide low-cost housing in an out-of-control housing market and promote neighborhood stability and civic engagement.

We have spoken with Tracie Citron of the Campus Cooperative Development Corporation, and she suggested that your co-op may be able to offer a low-interest loan for our project. We anticipate that the down payment for our house will be \$ 100,00 to \$180,000, and are seeking loans from many different sources towards this down payment. We hope to talk with you about the possibility of a loan, and any other ideas you have for our project. Adam Kessel, the nominal president of BCC, will be in touch in the near future to discuss opportunities for collaboration. We have enclosed a list of current residents, along with brief bios, and you can visit our web site at <http://www.bostoncoop.net/millstone> for additional information. And of course, if any of you are ever in the area, please feel free to join us for delicious vegan/vegetarian meals, stimulating conversation, music late-into-the-night and anything else we can dream up together.

Yours in cooperation,

Millstone Cooperative