



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 703, Hartford, CT 06103  
*Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation*



## Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council Draft Minutes for July 13, 2017 Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Rosemary Bove; Hilary Criollo; Jonathan Edwards; Jim Frey; Russell Holmberg; Michelle Niedermeyer; Michael O'Neill. **By Phone:** Cameron Faustman. **Council Members Absent:** Linda Auger; Dr. Frank Ferrandino; Jamie Jones; George Motel.

**Other Attendees:** DoAg staff.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Jim Frey moved to accept the May 11, 2017 minutes. Hilary Criollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report/Financial Report:** Commissioner Reviczky informed the council there is no state budget at this time. The Council's 2016 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Community Investment Act (CIA) payment was received. He reported recent agency budget and financial activities, legislative proposals, challenges and council financials. After encumbrances the current council balance is \$72,836, with \$24,576 expensed, leaving a balance of \$48,259. A discussion was held about Big E payments, the council budgeting, and encumbering funds.

### **Discussion of Reports:**

**Passport:** Michelle Niedermeyer updated the group on the positive Passport program feedback thus far and the development of a mobile application for the passport. A discussion was held about the need to gather information from passport patrons and wineries, and decide what the application will look like, how best to transition to the digital age, and the need for input.

**Big E:** Jonathan Edwards informed the group of developments with a consumption permit. Rose Bove discussed the role of the Department of Economic and Community Development and New England states. Jonathan said management of the booth at the Big E will be very similar to last year. A discussion was held that with the permit, the goal is to not need any support from the Council, except for certain annual expenses. The goal is to have eight wineries participate this year.

**Research and Education Working Group:** Russ Holmberg reported on a possible trip for wineries to Long Island to tour vineyards with a vineyard owner and manager. A discussion was held about RMA and other funding.

**Budget:** A brief discussion was held about the council budget that was outlined at the December 2016 council meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

### **New Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Murdock  
July 13, 2017