



Connecticut Farm Wine Development  
Council  
DRAFT Minutes for December 8, 2016  
Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Linda Auger; Hilary Criollo; Jonathan Edwards; Cameron Faustman; Jim Frey; Jamie Jones; George Motel; Michelle Niedermeyer; Dean Gregory Weidemann. **Council Members Absent:** Dr. Frank Ferrandino; Russell Holmberg; Catherine Smith, Commissioner DECD. **Other Attendees:** DoAg staff.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Linda Auger moved to accept the July 16, 2016 minutes. Hilary Criollo seconded and motion carried unanimously. Jon Edwards moved to accept the November 3, 2016 special meeting minutes and Michelle Niedemeyer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report/Financial Report:** Commissioner Reviczky thanked Dean Weidemann for his years of service. He reported recent agency budget activities and challenges, agency move, and new parking procedures. Commissioner reported the current finances of the Council account. After encumbrances the current balance is \$43,795.78, with \$4,545.25 expensed, and \$12,619.99 encumbered. A discussion was held about Big E payments.

**Discussion of Reports:**

**Passport:** Michelle Niedemeyer reported. Alternate payment methods for this program were discussed. It was agreed by consensus that alternate payments should be investigated, the program needs invigoration, and an application for the passport should be transitioned into use for the program. Cameron Faustman is checking on a UCONN MOU for the development of the application.

**Big E :** Jonathan Edwards informed the group the management of the booth will stay the same, hoping to get a wine by glass permit for 2017. Jon asked for the support of Rebecca Murphy, DoAg, as she did last year, and Commissioner Reviczky, for the liquor permits. A discussion ensued.

**Research and Education Working Group:** Russ Holmberg was not able to attend but notified DoAg the report remain unchanged. A brief discussion ensued.

**Budget:** Michelle made a motion that a budget for Council funds be accepted, with \$28,000 for the Passport Program, \$8,000 for the operation of the CT Building Wine booth for the Big E (Big E), \$4,000 for the fixed expenses of the Big E booth, \$2,000 for the educational programs, and \$4,750 for the administrative expenses of DoAg, leaving \$1,000 as a contingency. Linda seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously. By consensus, the funds for the passport also include the development of an application and marketing of the passport program.

A motion was made by Jonathan to charge a fee per winery to participate in the Passport Program and to investigate if those collected funds would be held separate from harm, contingent upon legal sufficiency. Seconded by Hilary, the motion carried unanimously.

Michelle made a motion to accept a donation of diamond earring as a new prize to the Council's passport program. Hilary seconded the motion. Jim Frey abstained. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Public Comment**

Bob Chipkin, Cassidy Hill Vineyard, asked for the passport program to eliminate the use of the Connecticut Grown logo for those firms with over 51 % Connecticut juices in their wine production. He asked if data supporting the claim the voluntary 51% program has been developed, his concerns about the promotion of a wine in this fashion, and the use of the Connecticut Grown logo. The item will be added as an agenda item next Council meeting.

**New Business**

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Proposed Meeting Dates of the Council for 2017**

A motion was made by Jonathan to adopt the dates of February 9, May 11, July 13, and December 7, 2017 for next year's meetings. Seconded by George, the motion carried unanimously.

**Passport Drawing**

A drawing for 53 prizes for the 2016 passport program was completed.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jane M. Slupecki on December 9, 2016