



# 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 of May 10, 2018 Meeting**

450 Columbus Boulevard  
Conference Room A, 9 North

**Council Members Present:** Linda Auger; Hilary Criollo; Dean Cameron Faustman; George Motel; Dr. Michael O'Neill; Richard Ruggiero; Cara Sawyer. **By Phone:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Jonathan Edwards; Russell Holmberg. **Council Members Absent:** Rosemary Bove; Dr. Frank Ferrandino. **Other Attendees:** Guest, Brenda Ruggiero, DoAg staff.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. George Motel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report/Financial Report:** Commissioner Reviczky announced a state budget was passed. Cuts to agency budget appear not to affect the council budget at this time. Jason Bowsza reported the council had expenditures of \$16,323, has encumbrances of \$28,722, leaving a balance of \$38,838. Add CIA update. Commissioner reported that funds due to the 2016 operators of the booth were forthcoming, and thanked Jonathan Edwards. Commissioner explained that he understood members had questions about the late printing and distribution of the passports and advised them he could not speak about any human resource issues at this time.

### **Discussion of Reports:**

**Big E:** Rebecca Eddy Murphy presented a draft schedule for the Big E-2018 wine booth and one late application. At 10:29 a.m., Jason Bowsza, Chief of Staff, continued the meeting, at the request of the Commissioner. A motion was made by Linda Auger to accept the schedule as presented with any subsequent modifications made by the agency as necessary, working with the wineries, and to allow a one-time exception for the late application to be accepted. Seconded by Hilary Criollo, the motion carried unanimously. A discussion ensued about the lack of participation. Jonathan made a motion to allocate \$7,500 of council funds to cover any potential losses that may be incurred by the operators of the booth. George seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Delivery and return of wine product and cabinetry in booth also were discussed.

**Research and Education:** Richard Ruggiero reported a June twilight meeting is being planned with the help of Dr. Francis Ferrandino. Conversations were held on budget, content, timing, and agenda. A discussion ensued about a training session for the electronic passport for the wineries.

**Passport:** Dr. Michael O'Neill provided an update on the electronic passport. A discussion ensued. Hilary made a motion to submit the electronic passport to iOS and Android for approval and to start beta testing this year in conjunction with the paper passports, offering voluntary beta testers eligibility for an additional prize (still to be determined). Linda Auger seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jane Murdock reported the passports were printed and ready for pickup. A discussion ensued and members reached consensus that the contingency plan for stamping that was implemented due to the delay in passport printing should be stopped. Rebecca provided an update on the extensive reach of Facebook promotion of the program.

**Legislation:** Jason updated the council on the legislative session that adjourned at midnight, including the agency's legislative proposals and the state budget, and briefly discussed legislation about reciprocity of sales of wine as the beer industry enjoys. After George briefed the council about CVWA activity, Jason and George agreed to work on a legislative proposal for next session.

### **Old Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

No old business was discussed.

**New Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

Rebecca distributed the new issue of the Connecticut Grown magazine, pointing out the half-page ad the council placed for the wine industry. A discussion ensued. Linda Piotrowicz and Rebecca reported briefly on the Governor's Conference on Tourism, presented annually by the Department of Economic Development's Office of Tourism, referencing its relevance to Connecticut farm wineries.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by George. Richard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, ending the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted on May 10, 2018,

Jane Murdock