



## Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

Minutes for August 13, 2015 Meeting

**Council Members Present:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Linda Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery. Participating by phone: Hilary Criollo, Hopkins Vineyard; Jonathan Edwards, Jonathan Edwards Winery; Jim Frey, Walker Road Vineyard; Gregory Weidemann, Dean, UConn CAHNR.

**Council Members Absent:** Cameron Faustman, Director, Storrs Experiment Station; Dr. Frank Ferrandino, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Russell Holmberg, Holmberg Orchards; Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm & Winery; George Motel, Sunset Meadow Vineyard; Michelle Niedermeyer, Lost Acres Vineyard.

**Other Attendees:** DoAg staff.

### **Call to Order**

Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Jim Frey moved to accept the June 18, 2015 minutes with a correction to the name of a guest who attended. Hilary Criollo seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Jonathan Edwards moved to accept the special meeting minutes of July 22, 2015 as presented. Jim Frey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Chairman's Report**

Commissioner Reviczky reported that recent changes to the Community Investment Account distributions were not expected to affect the council's annual funding of \$47,500. He announced a cooperative agreement with the USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service for statistical data on grape production that cost approximately \$1,700. A discussion ensued. Jane Slupecki from DoAg reported the agency applied for a \$1,000 Risk Management sub grant from UConn that could provide for a winery/vineyard educational event.

### **Passport Subcommittee**

There was a discussion regarding the drawing of Passport prize winners and the potential to hold the event at the Legislative Office Building to allow for a larger attendance and enhanced media coverage.

### **Big E Subcommittee**

Eight wineries are participating. DoAg will attend the August 18 West Springfield Liquor Control meeting during which permit applications will be reviewed. Jonathan Edwards made a motion for the Big E Subcommittee to investigate and present for vote at the December 10, 2015 meeting potential models for a cooperative approach to exhibiting in future years at the Big E including staffing, logistics, sales and financial responsibilities. Linda Auger seconded. A discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously. Linda Auger offered to join the Big E Subcommittee.

### **Old Business**

Agency staff is tracking extra passports for wineries that need more passports for their customers.

### **New Business**

Linda Auger moved to use Wine Council funds up to \$1600.00 to place an ad for the wineries and vineyards to run in both 2016 issues of the CTVisit.com publication, Hilary Criollo seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Other Business**

With no other business, Commissioner Reviczky adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. NEXT MEETING? December 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jane M. Slupecki*

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August 14, 2015