

Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)



Minutes for June 18, 2015 Meeting

Council Members Present: Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture; Linda Auger, Taylor Brooke Winery ; Hilary Crillo, Hopkins Vineyard; Jonathan Edwards, Jonathan Edwards Winery; Dr. Frank Ferrandino, CT Agricultural Experiment Station; Jim Frey, Walker Road Vineyard ; George Motel, Sunset Meadow Vineyard; Michelle Niedermeyer, Lost Acres Vineyard, Gregory Weidemann, Dean, UConn College of Agriculture.

Council Members Absent: Cameron Faustman, Director, Storrs Experiment Station; Russell Holmberg, Holmberg Orchards; Jamie Jones, Jones Family Farm & Winery.

Other Attendees: Blaze Faillaci, Dalice Elizabeth Winery; Judy Ferraro, CT Valley Winery; Chris Granger, Land of Nod Winery; Richard Ruggiero, Paradise Hills Vineyard & Winery; John Wilcox, Dalice Elizabeth Winery; Linda Piotrowicz and Jane Slupecki, Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Call to Order

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

Meeting Minutes Approval

Gregory Weidemann made a motion to accept the March 19, 2015 minutes as submitted. Dr. Frank Ferrandino seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.

Chairman's Report

Commissioner Reviczky provided an update on the current budget and legislative session. A detailed discussion of possible scenarios ensued regarding proposed legislation regarding Community Investment Act funds, which could affect the council's annual funding. Budgeting concerns and the authority for Council expenditures were discussed. Michelle Niedermeyer asked for a report on the Council's last 5 years of expenditures. Commissioner Reviczky reminded the Council of the other portion of its mission, and the need to use funds for other parts of the legislative charge.

Passport Subcommittee

Ms. Niedermeyer reported the subcommittee has discussed contingency plans, and will bring the report to the September meeting. The subcommittee should plan to meet again.

During public comment, Blaze Faillaci reported he has personally worked on and is nearly done with an application for the Passport.

Big E Subcommittee

Mr. Jonathan Edwards asked for DoAg staff to send one last request for a winery to act as the manager of the Big E booth, as no one has stepped forward. The contingency plan is to run the Big E booth in the past. The permitting process timeline was in question.

Reoccurring Big E expenses were discussed. Sales tax issues were discussed.

Most recent information between the management of the Big E and the Avenue of the State Building stakeholders was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

The 2015 Passport production was discussed. Agency staff reported there will be the opportunity to redistribute passports between wineries. The new wine brochure was available for wineries to take back to their place of business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Reviczky introduced Dr. Frank Ferrandino, CAES, and the first educational speaker for the Council's meetings. Dr. Ferrandino presented a history and update on viticulture research at the Connecticut Experiment Station.

Other Business

There was no other business and Commissioner Reviczky adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting is September 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane M. Slupecki". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully Submitted," text.

Jane M. Slupecki

June 23, 2015