



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for 14 March 2013

Chairman

Steve Reviczky steven.reviczky@ct.gov Commissioner of Ag. P

Council Members

Dick Auger	dick@taylorbrookewinery.com	Taylor Brooke Winery	P
Jamie Jones	jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com	Jones Family Farm	P
Gary Crump	garyvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiller	svollweiler@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	A
George Motel	gmotel@bozzuto.com	Sunset Meadow Vineyard	P
Gregory Weidemann	gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu	Dean & Director UCONN	P
Dr. Bill Nail	william.nail@po.state.ct.us	Ct Agricultural Station	P

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Jamie Smith	Jaimie.smith@ct.gov	DOAG
George Krivda Jr.		DOAG

1 Call to order

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:08 by Chairman Reviczky.
- 1.2 Sign in sheet was distributed and email addresses were requested of all present
- 1.3 Jamie Smith distributed the Agenda and minutes to the December 2012 meeting

2 Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Gary Crump motioned to accept the minutes second by Bill Hopkins, discussion ensued with no corrections to the minutes
- 2.2 Motioned carried with 7 affirmative and 0 abstentions (7 votes).

3 Chairman Report

- 3.1 The Commissioner announced/introduced J. Diple as the new Bureau of Ag/Development Farmland Preservation Director.
- 3.2 The Commissioner then announced that the Legislature approved the Community Reinvestment Act and the Farm Winery Development Council will receive their funding for the next two years of \$80,521.82.
- 3.3 Commissioner Reviczky introduced Mr. George Krivda Jr. to the group. Mr. Krivda is the DOAG Legislative Liaison.
- 3.4 Commissioner Reviczky updated the meeting with the following information on Legislative actions; Status Quo on the Ag budget, some minor cuts. Will maintain staffing levels and may

be able to fill some vacancies. If can get permission to fill vacancies will be about 3.5 to 4 positions. A proposal is being considered for funding the Nutritional Programs for Education which would be funded through the Community Reinvestment Act. That could have an effect on the Councils funding.

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 A written treasurers report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 12/14/12 to 03/14/13
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$26,928.13, ending balance \$23,685.85
- 4.4 Income was \$3.06
- 4.6 Copies of the budget were distributed with detailed list of expenses.
- 4.7 *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Nail to accept the report. Unanimous vote. (7 votes)*
- 4.8 It was noted that Bill Hopkins is no longer the Treasurer. The accounts are being reviewed by DAS and set up in accordance with Sate Regulations and a new Treasurer will be appointed.

5 Old Business

- 5.1 Passport Update
 - 5.1.1 Jamie Smith reported that the 2013 Passport printing costs will be reduced by ~\$3k.
 - 5.1.2 Two boxes of Passports will be distributed to each winery before May3rd.
 - 5.1.3 There is one new participant; Preston Ridge Winery. That will mean there are 33 wineries that are participating in the program.
 - 5.1.4 Question was raised as to how many stamps would be needed to be considered in the drawing. Discussion was held and a motion was made by Dick Auger, seconded by Jamie Jones to keep the number at 16 stamps. 7 affirmative votes/0 no votes
 - 5.1.5 Jamie Smith announced that the La Quinta Hotel chain has donated 15 nights in their hotel as prizes for this year's Passport Program. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Jamie Jones that approve the additional hotel nights as prizes for this years (2013) program. The motioned passed unanimously.
 - 5.1.6 Discussion was held on updating the Passport as some customers have said it has become "stale".
 - 5.1.7 A motion was made by George Motel and seconded by Gary Crump to form a sub-committee to "freshen" up the 2014 Passport Program and the prizes. The recommendations need to be finalized by the December meeting for implementation in 2014. Dick Auger, Gary Crump and Jamie Jones volunteered to be on the committee with the Commissioner to appoint two members of the Winery Industry. Motioned carried unanimously.
 - 5.1.8 Jamie Smith reminded all members that the Signature Page for the Passport participation must complete the authorization letter and include all the information on acres of vines, grapes grown and wine production. If it is not filled out, they cannot participate.
- 5.2 Big E Update (Wine Sales)
 - 5.2.1 It was noted by the Commissioner that an inordinate amount of time was being spent in trying to allow Wine Sales in the CT. Building.
 - 5.2.2 Discussion have occurred at the Governor to Governor level with the State of Massachusetts and also at the Lt Governor and Attorney General with little movement or action.
- 5.3 Brochure Update
 - 5.3.1 The new updated brochure will be out in the Fall after finishing the Passport program.

5.3.2 Wineries will be given chance to update their descriptions.

6 New Business – Joseph Dippel took over meeting for the Commissioner

- 6.1 The Big E is establishing a new Wine Garden. For those wineries that participate in the Big E Wine Competition, they will be able to sell wine at the Big E. A 15% cut in gross sales from the wines will be given to the Mass Farm Winery Association. The Big E encourages Ct Farm Wineries to participate. Much discussion was held on this subject with no outcome.
- 6.2 The Legislature is considering several changes to Liquor Legislation, among them are; expanding spirits sales to Farmers Markets; more liberal tasting in liquor stores; selling wine off premise.
- 6.3 Gary Crump updated some activities in the Dept. of Consumer Protection on Section 30-16-5. Permit use and validity of 5025 verifiable number of crops grown.
- 6.4 Wine Festival- the 2013 Festival will be held at the Goshen Fairgrounds on July 27th and 28th. More vendor participation is expected with an additional tent for vendors to use. A discussion was held on how to get more Farm Wineries to participate. Maybe a stipend to reduce the wineries costs would help in the participation level.

7 Other Business – Public Comments

- 7.1 Jamie Smith informed the group that 2 Farmers Markets were looking for Winery participation. Gary Crump told the group that he participated in a small Farmers Market and his sales were the not good. Contact Jamie for additional information.
- 7.2 A discussion was had about continuing to participate in the Big E given the problems with selling wine. A suggestion was made to use local Ct Fairs as a better way to advertise local wines.
- 7.3 Another suggestion was to partner with the CT Tourism and Wineries to coop advertisement.
- 7.4 A presentation was given by UConn Ag Resource Economics grad student Jeremy Jelliffe's and his Master's thesis "Economic Analysis of Grape Production for Wine Making in Connecticut.

Motion was made to adjourn by George Motel and seconded by Jamie Jones at 12:23. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

9 June 2013 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

Draft Agenda for 9 June 2013 Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Update on wine sales at the Big E for 2013
- Budget review for 2013
- Passport Program update
- Long Range Planning sub-committee update

New Business

- Legislative Update

Meeting Close

Next Meeting