

# DRAFT

Connecticut Farm Wine  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2013

### Chairman

Steven K. Reviczky      [steven.reviczky@ct.gov](mailto:steven.reviczky@ct.gov)      Commissioner of Agriculture.      A

### Council Members

Dick Auger	<a href="mailto:dick@taylorbrookewinery.com">dick@taylorbrookewinery.com</a>	Taylor Brooke Winery	A
Jamie Jones	<a href="mailto:jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com">jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com</a>	Jones Family Farm & Winery	P
Gary Crump	<a href="mailto:garyvin27@sbcglobal.net">garyvin27@sbcglobal.net</a>	Priam Vineyards	A
Bill Hopkins	<a href="mailto:wlhopkins@charternet.net">wlhopkins@charternet.net</a>	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiler	<a href="mailto:svollweiler@yahoo.com">svollweiler@yahoo.com</a>	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	P
George Motel	<a href="mailto:gmotel@bozzuto.com">gmotel@bozzuto.com</a>	Sunset Meadow Vineyard	P
Gregory Weidemann	<a href="mailto:gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu">gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu</a>	Dean, UConn Coll. of Ag	P
Dr. Bill Nail	<a href="mailto:william.nail@po.state.ct.us">william.nail@po.state.ct.us</a>	CT Ag Experiment Station	A
Cameron Faustman	<a href="mailto:cameron.faustman@uconn.edu">cameron.faustman@uconn.edu</a>	Director, Storrs Experiment Station	A

### Farm Winery Attendees

Jim Frey	<a href="mailto:frey65@sbcglobal.net">frey65@sbcglobal.net</a>	Walker Road Vineyards
Jim Jerram	<a href="mailto:jerramwinery@hotmail.com">jerramwinery@hotmail.com</a>	Jerram Winery
Michelle Niedermeyer	<a href="mailto:michelle108_us@yahoo.com">michelle108_us@yahoo.com</a>	
Robert Chipkin	<a href="mailto:cassidyhillvineyard@comcast.net">cassidyhillvineyard@comcast.net</a>	Cassidy Hill Vineyard

### Department of Agriculture Attendees

Joseph Dippel	<a href="mailto:joseph.dippel@ct.gov">joseph.dippel@ct.gov</a>	DoAg
Jaime Smith	<a href="mailto:jaime.smith@ct.gov">jaime.smith@ct.gov</a>	DoAg

### 1. Call to order

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 10:10am by Joseph Dippel, acting Council Chairman. A sign in sheet was passed around. The agenda and previous meeting minutes were also distributed.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

2.1 Bill Hopkins moved to accept the minutes as submitted. George Motel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

3.1 Joseph Dippel reports there was \$112,249 available in the Council's account. This included the check for \$18,307.01 from the external checking account which is now closed.

- 3.2 George Motel made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted. Jamie Jones seconded and it passed unanimously.
- 3.4 It was requested that the council's yearly expenses be provided at the next meeting. Some suggestions for ways to appropriately spend the funds which would benefit the industry included doing a strategic plan for the next 10 years or to fund an extension agent-type position to work with the growers.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

- 4.1 In the absence of a chairman's report, acting chairman Joseph Dippel mentioned and briefly reviewed the Farmland Restoration Program for those in attendance.

#### **5. Open Comment Period**

- 5.1 Jim Jerram – appreciated the opportunity to comment, however it's in the wrong place on the agenda. A comment directed to those on the prize subcommittee: winners of the trips should have the opportunity to transfer their prize to someone else since the trip only takes place in February and it excludes any teachers.
- 5.2 Bob Chipkin – agrees the comment period should be added at the end of the agenda. He also noted that the minutes did not specify that the new information requested to participate in the Passport would not be released. He also noted that linking the wine festival to passport participation was also not in the minutes.
- 5.3 Jim Frey – supported the previous comments.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **6. Big E Wine Sales**

- 6.1 Jaime Smith reported that positive headway was made as a result of the face to face meeting with the West Springfield License Commission and some of the New England States. More information about the process to sell wine by the bottle at the Big E will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

#### **7. External Checking Account**

- 7.1 Jaime Smith reported that the external checking account had been closed by Bill Hopkins and the balance of the account, \$18,307.01 had been transferred to the state account.
- 7.2 There was one check that had not been cashed yet and the agency will work to get a new check reissued.

#### **8. Legislative Update**

- 8.1 Acting Chairman Dippel briefly reviewed legislation that would impact Connecticut farm wineries including Senate Bill 881, An Act Concerning Farm Wineries.

#### **9. Wine Festivals:**

- 9.1 2013 Wine Festivals is July 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>
- 9.2 New this year there will be a vendor tent. Also a \$100 booth fee which could be shared by two wineries. So far only seven wineries have signed up.
- 9.3 There is no marketing grant to help with marketing and promotion of the festival. Given that George Motel requested that the Council reimburse the Association for the cost of the tickets provided as prize for the 2012 Passport Program.
- 9.4 Acting Chairman Dippel entertained a motion by Mr. Motel to reimburse CVWA \$1,850 for 74 tickets at \$25/person. Jamie Jones seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- 9.5 Also given the lack of external funding to assist with marketing, Mr. Motel suggested that the Council could support the festival by covering the cost of the radio advertising which was \$2500.
- 9.6 Jamie Jones made a motion to pay for the radio ads for the festival after Commissioner's review of the advertising proposal. Bill Hopkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **10. 2014 Passport Prize Subcommittee**

- 10.1 Jaime Smith reported that all members of the subcommittee had been informally contacted. They will meet for the first time prior to the September meeting.

### **11. Intern**

- 11.1 Jaime Smith reported that an intern is expected to start in the coming weeks. She will be working with Mrs. Smith closely on farm wine and Wine Council related projects.

### **12. CT Tourism Conference**

- 12.1 Jaime Smith recapped the highlights of the CT Tourism Conference in May.
- 12.2 The total cost to attend was \$2,219. Given the amenities provided it was pricey, however participation was beneficial overall.

### **13. Wine Council vs. CT Vineyard and Winery Association**

- 13.1 Given some recent confusion Jaime Smith reviewed the difference between the Council and the Association explaining that while they often work cooperatively together, they are two separate organizations running different programs and administered by different entities.

### **14. Other Business**

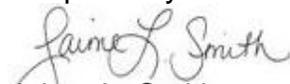
- 14.1 There was none

George Motel motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jamie Jones. The motion passed unanimously and Acting Chairman Dippel adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on September 12, 2013 and will be held at the Hartford Regional Market conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jaime L. Smith  
Acting Secretary