



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 for May 11, 2017 Meeting

Council Members Present: Steven Reviczky, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture (DoAg); Rosemary Bove; Jonathan Edwards; Jim Frey; George Motel. **By Phone:** Linda Auger; Hilary Criollo; Jamie Jones; Michelle Niedermeyer. **Council Members Absent:** Cameron Faustman; Dr. Frank Ferrandino; Russell Holmberg. **Other Attendees:** DoAg staff.

Call to Order: Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approval: George Motel moved to accept the December 8, 2016 minutes. Jonathan Edwards seconded. After a discussion, the motion carried with all in favor except Michelle Niedemeyer, who opposed.

Chairman's Report/Financial Report: Commissioner Reviczky informed the council that due to a growing deficit, a CIA payment to council has been eliminated. He reported recent agency budget and financial activities, legislative proposals, challenges and council financials. After encumbrances the current council balance is \$61,215.32, with \$11,620.70 expensed, and \$29,261.70 encumbered. A discussion was held about Big E payments.

Discussion of Reports:

Passport: Michelle Niedemeyer submitted a written report. She discussed a meeting to discuss technology integration that she and others from the industry had with UCONN. A discussion was held about the need to invigorate the passport, including DECD programs and agency Facebook efforts. Video from a passport kickoff event with Governor Malloy with Commissioner and council member Jamie Jones was shared. Michelle asked for input from members.

Big E: Jonathan Edwards informed the group the management of the booth at the Big E will be very similar, but with pursuit of a consumption permit. The goal is to break even, based upon the sales allowed by the permit. The booth organization and planning must be ready for a vote of the July meeting of the Council.

Research and Education Working Group: Russ Holmberg was not able to attend. A brief discussion ensued.

Budget: Jonathan Edwards suggested setting a cap of \$8,000 for the operation of the CT Building Wine booth for the Big E (Big E). Production of the 65,000 passports was \$12,088. Distribution of the passport was \$810.

Old Business

Public Comment: None.

New Business

Public Comment: None.

George Motel announced the Connecticut Wine Festival in Goshen is scheduled for July 22-23, 2017, and the Durham Wine Festival is to be held September 22-24, 2017.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Murdock

May 12, 2017