



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 703, Hartford, CT 06103
Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Preservation



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

Minutes for December 7, 2017 Meeting

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

Call to Order: Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Jonathan Edwards moved to accept the July 13, 2017 minutes. Jim Frey seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Jonathan Edwards moved to accept the July 28, 2017 special meeting minutes. Dr. Frank Ferrandino seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report/Financial Report: Commissioner Reviczky informed the council there is a state budget at this time. There was no sweep of the Community Investment Act (CIA) funds. He reported recent agency budget and financial activities, challenges, and agency and council financials. Starting with a balance of \$72,092, there are encumbrances of \$13,092, \$3,666 expensed, thus leaving a balance of \$55,251. A discussion was held about Big E payments, the agency expenses, council budgeting, and the notification of the resignations of Jim Frey and Michelle Niedemeyer from the Council.

Discussion of Reports:

Big E: Jonathan Edwards reported the very positive outcome of the 2017 Big E, including wine by the glass and bottle. Jonathan informed the group there is no need for contingency fund and the booth expenses will be covered by the Council in 2018. Management of the booth at the Big E will be very similar to last year. A discussion was held.

Passport: Dr. O'Neill and Philip Ira provided mockups and updated the group on the progress on the electronic Passport, received feedback, and discussed the launch time frame. Jonathan Edwards, Linda Auger, and Jim Frey agreed to be available for the design team from now until May for feedback and counsel. A brief report was given on the number of qualifying passports received. This revealed an increase of the number of qualifying passports.

Research and Education: Rebecca Eddy, DoAg staff, reported the need for a meeting to be planned and to submit all paperwork for the 2017-2018 Risk Management (RMA) grant by September 2018. A discussion was held about the timing and use of those funds and a call for assistance for planning.

Budget: Linda Piotrowicz, Commissioner's designee, took control of Chairmanship after his departure. A brief discussion was held about the need for a directional budget for 2018. Rebecca Eddy requested funding for electronic advertising, which was received favorably by the group. Jim Frey made a motion to accept a budget that can only be changed by another Council vote which sets aside \$28,000 for the Passport program; \$2,000 for Research and Education; \$4,750 for Administrative Expenses to DoAg, \$4,000 for the Big E; \$1,500 for digital advertising, and a contingency fund of \$7,250. Seconded by Jonathan Edwards, the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Public Comment: None.

New Business

Public Comment: None.

Hilary Criollo made a motion to designate the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association to manage the operation of the wine booth in the Connecticut Building at the 2018 Big E as done in the previous year. Seconded by Linda Auger, the motion carried unanimously.

Jamie Jones told group about the Brewery Act. He requested that there be a legislative report each meeting, putting that back onto the agenda as it was in the years past. Linda Piotrowicz will ask for an update to be provided.

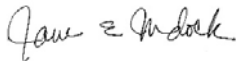
2017 Passport Prize Drawing

The drawing for the 2017 Passport Program winners was held, awarding 57 prizes.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jane Murdock
December 11, 2017