



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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



**Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council**  
**Amended and Final Minutes of December 6, 2018 Meeting**  
450 Columbus Boulevard  
Conference Room 2 E South

**Council Members Present:** Steven Reviczky, Commissioner; Linda Auger; Rose Bove; Hilary Criollo; Jonathan Edwards; Dr. Michael O'Neill; Richard Ruggiero. **By Phone:** George Motel; Cara Sawyer.

**Council Members Absent:** Dr. Cameron Faustman; Dr. Frank Ferrandino; Russell Holmberg, Jamie Jones. **Other Attendees:** DoAg staff, members of the public.

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Minutes of the July 11 Meeting:** Linda Auger moved to accept the July 11, 2018 minutes. Hilary Criollo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report/Financial Report:** Commissioner Reviczky reported on progress of the Governor-Elect transition team. Jason Bowsza reported the council had expenditures of \$9,000 in FY 2018, encumbrances of \$26,000, and a balance of \$64,000. There will be another \$11,750 deposited for the last quarter.

## **Discussion of Reports:**

**Big E:** Jonathan Edwards submitted a report on the 2018 Connecticut Building wine booth. Discussions ensued on the need for planning and getting quotations before asking for about \$8,000 in funding from the Council for the future improvements to the booth. Hilary Criollo made a motion that Jonathan and Keith Bishop remain the managers of the wine booth for the 2019 Big E. Linda Auger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Research and Education:** Richard Ruggiero reported the Council's meeting was well attended. Discussion on future topics followed. Rebecca Eddy reported on the reduction of RMA funding to \$750 for the Council. Jonathan Edwards made a motion budget \$3,000 for the Research and Education program. Richard Ruggiero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Passport:** Dr. Michael O'Neill provided an update on the ADA compliant electronic passport and hands-on demonstration. A discussion followed about the information gathered electronically and from hard copies of the passport. Jonathan Edwards made a motion to add a rule to the passport program that emails received are only to be used for notifications and communication from the Connecticut Farm Winery Development Council. Hilary Criollo seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The conversation then turned to the effect of the electronic passport on the number of passports to print. Jonathan Edwards made a motion to print 55,000 copies of the 2019 passport which was seconded by Linda Auger. The motion passed unanimously. Jonathan Edwards made a motion to set aside \$35,000 of the Council's budget for the passport program. Seconded by Richard Ruggiero, the motion passed unanimously. Hilary Criollo made a motion to create incentives to sign up for the electronic passport by entering the first 1,000 people registered into a drawing for one prize (to be determined). Linda Auger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Hilary Criollo made a motion that the first 100 people to get 12 stamps in the passport "app" by July 1, 2019 would each get a ticket at the advance sale price to the 2019 Connecticut Wine Festival in Goshen, CT, on the Sunday of the festival. Seconded by Jonathan Edwards, the motion passed unanimously.

## **The 2019 Meeting Dates**

Linda Auger made a motion to accept the dates of February 7, May 9, July 11, and December 5 for the meetings of the Council in 2019. Richard Ruggiero seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Legislation:** Commissioner Reviczky reported the agency has no wine related proposals. A discussion was held about the 2018 Senate Bill 11 which negatively affected Connecticut businesses.

**Old Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

No old business was discussed.

**New Business**

**Public Comment:** A Rhode Island guest agreed with the Council's decision to limit the use of information gathered in the passports for the Council's purposes only.

No new business was discussed.

**2018 Passport Prize Drawing:**

Sixty names were selected for the 2018 Wine Passport prizes in accordance to the prize structure without incident.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted on December 10, 2018,

*Jane Murdock*

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