



# 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 February 8, 2018 Meeting**

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

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Jonathan Edwards moved to accept the December 8, 2017 minutes. Hilary Criollo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report/Financial Report:** Introductions were made. Commissioner Reviczky informed the council a sweep of the Community Investment Act (CIA) funds will not affect council. He reported recent agency budget and financial activities, challenges, and agency and council financials. The Wine Council has a balance of \$83,884, with encumbrances of \$30,982, and \$7,506 expensed.

### **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 he and Keith will continue in their role and conversed with members about the 2018 Big E. A discussion about the consumption permit in the Connecticut Building at the Big E ensued and who would be pursuing the permits.

**Research and Education:** After brief update provided on grant and funding, the Council and Richard Ruggiero came to a consensus that upon his appointment to the Council, Richard will spearhead an educational meeting for the industry. Conversations were held on content, timing, and agenda.

**Passport:** Commissioner spoke of an appointee interested in the passport program. A discussion about the passport followed. A motion was made by Jon Edwards to change the structure of qualifying number of stamps for prizes to three tiers: a minimum of 35 stamps required for top valued prizes, including a trip to Spain; a minimum of 18 stamps for the second trip to Spain and other prizes; and, a minimum of 12 stamps, eligible for two bottles of wine from a participating winery. Also gives the agency the authority to explore additional prizes, to be approved by the Council at a special meeting. Seconded by Hilary, the motion passed unanimously. UConn student Sharra Neely provided an update, answered and asked questions, and showed members a live working model of the electronic passport, and requested information for placing the application on the State of Connecticut server.

### **Old Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

No old business discussed.

### **New Business**

**Public Comment:** None.

The Council discussed proposed legislation that will affect the industry. Commissioner Reviczky announced two new council members will be appointed. Other members' terms were discussed.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted on February 9, 2018,

Jane Murdock