



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for 09 December 2010

Chairman

F. Philip Prelli philip.prelli@ct.gov Commissioner of Ag. P

Council Members

Dick Auger	dick@taylorbrookewinery.com	Taylor Brooke Winery	P
Jamie Jones	jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com	Jones Family Farm	A
Gary Crump	garyvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiller	svollweiler@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	P
George Motel	gmotel@bozzuto.com	Sunset Meadow Vineyard	P
Gregory Weidemann	gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu	Dean & Director UCONN	P
Bill Nail	william.nail@po.state.ct.us	Ct Agricultural Station	P

Farm Winery Attendees

Jim Frey	frey65@sbcglobal.net	Walker Road Vineyard	
Jim Jearam	jearamwinery@hotmail.com	Jearam Winery	
Joe Gouveia	gouveiavineyard	Gouveia Vineyards	
Paul Peloquin	paul@saltwaterfarmvineyard.com	Saltwater Farm Vineyard	

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Jamie Smith	Jamie.smith@ct.gov	DOAG
Robert Pelligrino		DOAG

1 Call to order

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Chairman Prelli
- 1.2 Sign in sheet was distributed and email addresses were requested of all present
- 1.3 Bob Pelligrino distributed the Agenda and minutes to the last meeting
- 1.4 Gary Crump motioned to accept the minutes second by George Motel discussion ensued

2 Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Meeting minutes were reviewed.
- 2.2 Motioned carried.

3 Chairman Report

- 3.1 Funding terminates 1 July 2011 for all Councils. There is a move afoot to try extending the existing budget by the Dairy People and it may apply to the entire funding stream.
- 3.2 The Commissioner will try to get the funding put into the budget but with the State budget deficit, it will be difficult.
- 3.3 The Commissioner noted that the Council has some great programs with the Wine Trail, Passport Program and Wine festival funding is at risk.
- 3.4 The current DOAG service budget is not even funded yet.
- 3.5 This may be the last meeting with the current Commissioner as the new Governor has the right to appoint a new Commissioner.

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 A written treasurers report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 09/09/10 to 12/09/10
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$35,120.63 ending balance \$30,122.63
- 4.4 Income was \$3,500 from DOAG in the form of a Grant for Radio Advertising for the Wine Festival. Expenses were \$8,498 for Winery Stipends at the Big E and Radio advertisement paid to the CVWA for the Wine Festival.
- 4.6 Copies of the budget were distributed.
- 4.7 *A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Dick Auger to accept the report. Unanimous vote.*

5 Old Business

- 5.1 Legislative Update
 - 5.1.1 There is a proposal to have a second Wine Festival. Current law is only one festival for a non-profit and one for a for profit organization.
- 5.2 Big E Update
 - 5.2.1 Good participations by the wineries.
 - 5.2.2 The incentives for the wineries were very good.
 - 5.2.3 The subject of selling wine was again discussed. Sharpe Hill has a distributor in Massachusetts that maybe the other wineries could use to transport and wholesale. The limiting factor is the city of West Springfield limits the number of liquor permits.
 - 5.2.4 Motion was made by Steve Vollweiller and seconded by Dick Auger to participate in the Big E next year and to also fund the stipend. Passed unanimously.
- 5.3 Data Base of Email addresses
 - 5.3.1 DOAG legal verified that the email addresses are public information and are available to the wineries for their use.
 - 5.3.2 The information is available on disk from the DOAG
 - 5.3.3 If any winery is interested in the information they need to send a written request to Jamie Smith at the DOAG. A fee will be charged for the CD.
 - 5.3.4 The information is in an Excel format.
- 5.4 Motion was made by Gary Crump, seconded by George Motel to have the drawings for the Passport winners at the end of the meeting. No discussion, passed unanimously.
- 5.5 Passport Information
 - 5.5.1 Drawing to be held today at the end of the meeting.
 - 5.5.2 Results will be published on the DOAG website.

- 5.5.2 The results will also be posted on the CVWA website.
- 5.5.3 2011 Passport awards were discussed. Multiple wineries sent suggestions to Jamie Smith on how to change/improve the program.
Among them were:
- Two levels of prizes; one for those who visited ALL wineries and for those who completed the minimum number of visitors
 - Prizes should be Connecticut based or at least in the US
 - Use Bed and Breakfasts in Connecticut to partner with wineries.
- 5.5.4 Question was raised as to how to get more people to visit more wineries.
- 5.5.5 Motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Hopkins to keep the Passport program going but to convene a sub-committee to come back with a prize package similar to the current ones. The sub-committee is comprised of; Gary Crump, Steve Vollweiller and Jamie Jones. The first report is due at the March meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.6 Motion was made to have the CFA compile the Passport Report again this year with a cap of \$900 of cost. Motion made by Gary Crump, seconded by Dick Auger. Passed unanimously.
- 5.7 Motion was made by Gary Crump to go into executive session to discuss a contract issue. Bill Hopkins seconded. Passed unanimously.
- 5.8 Motion was made by Gary Crump seconded by George Motel to go back into Regular session. Passed unanimously.

6 New Business

- 6.1 2010 Passport Program drawing. All winners will be posted on the DOAG and CVWA website.
- 6.2 Motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Hopkins to pay all travel expenses by Debit card associated with the Treasury checking account. Motioned passed unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by George Motel and seconded by Dick Auger. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

10 March 2011 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

Draft Agenda for 10 March 2011 Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report – Introduction of new Commissioner

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Update on wine sales at the Big E for 2010
- Budget review for 2011
- Passport Program update
- Prize package sub-committee update
- Long Range Planning sub-committee update

New Business

- Legislative Update

Meeting Close

Next Meeting