



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 of July 12, 2018 Meeting

450 Columbus Boulevard
Meeting Room A, North Plaza

Council Members Present: Steven Reviczky, Commissioner; Linda Auger; Rose Bove; Jason Bowsza; Hilary Criollo; Jonathan Edwards; Dr. Michael O'Neill; Richard Ruggiero; **By Phone:** Jamie Jones; Cara Sawyer. **Council Members Absent:** Dr. Cameron Faustman; Dr. Frank Ferrandino; Russell Holmberg. **Other Attendees:** DoAg staff.

Call to Order: Jason Bowsza, Chief of Staff, brought the meeting to order, at the request of the Commissioner, at 10:12 a.m.

Minutes of the May 10 Meeting: Hilary Criollo called for a correction to the May 10 minutes to include Jamie Jones as present at the meeting by phone. Linda Auger made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Jonathan Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report/Financial Report: Jason Bowsza reported on marketing opportunities for the wineries at NASDA and Farm Aid. Cuts to agency budget appear not to affect the council budget at this time. Jason Bowsza reported the council had expenditures of \$29,291 in FY 2018, leaving a balance for \$66,476. Upon his return to the meeting, Commissioner asked if funds due to the 2016 operators of the booth had been received. Since funds have not been received, Commissioner asked Jason to check on the status of the monies with the AG Office.

Discussion of Reports:

Big E: Jonathan and Rose Bove reported the favorable meeting with the West Springfield, MA Liquor Commission regarding the request for a second consumption permit for the Connecticut Building. The discussion continued about the solidified contract with CFBA for \$7500, the transfer of ownership of cabinetry to the Wine Booth, who will control staffing, record keeping, insurance, and movement of the wine to and from the building. Next steps to obtain the consumption permit on August 7 were discussed.

Research and Education: Richard Ruggiero reported the details of the July 24 educational twilight meeting for wineries. The Council members present came to a consensus to offer the featured speaker an honoraria of \$500 from the USDA-RMA grant. Other options for RMA funds and Council funds were discussed. DoAg staff will follow up on details with Richard.

Passport: Dr. Michael O'Neill provided an update on the electronic passport. The beginning of the beta testing has been delayed till August. A discussion followed. Jane Murdock reported on the 2019 passport and contract to produce it. The conversation about the effect on the number of passports to print ensued. A motion was made by Hilary to move forward to create a one year contract with the option to expand the booklet by 3 signatures, and to request pricing for 35,000, 45,000, 55,000 and 65,000, with an option to renew the contract for an additional year. Jonathan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A page about the electronic passport in the paper passport was suggested. The passport application was discussed and by consensus was accepted as presented with revisions. The Facebook promotion of the program was discussed. Commissioner announced how new agency counsel can help research options to charge fees for programs. It was suggested that there be a live streaming Facebook feed at the passport prize drawing.

Legislation: Jason offered to work with the group on legislative proposals for the upcoming session. The council members discussed legislation about reciprocity of sales of wine as the beer industry enjoys. Also, the council members discussed the sale of wine in grocery store with a shelf space set-

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aside of 15% or so for Connecticut wineries' products.

Old Business

Public Comment: None.

No old business was discussed.

New Business

Public Comment: None.

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted on July 12, 2018,

Jane Murdock