



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



Bryan P. Hurlburt
Commissioner

860-713-2507
www.CTGrown.gov

Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2019

Preston Ridge Vineyard
100 Miller Road, Preston, CT

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Jonathan Edwards, Hilary Criollo (on phone), George Motel (on phone), Indrajeet Chaubey (on phone), Richard Ruggiero, Linda Auger (on phone), Cara Sawyer

Members Absent: Jamie Jones, Dr. Frank Ferrandino

DoAg staff: Rebecca Eddy,

Guests: Washington DaSilva

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Commissioner welcomed Council members and introductions were made.
2. **Review and approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2019:** Motion made by Linda Auger. Seconded by Indrajeet Chaubey to approve the minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Public Comment:** none
4. **Reports:**
 - a. **Legislative:** Jon Edwards reported that CVWA is not pleased with passing of HB 647. Discussion ensued about how to incentive farm wineries and potential to sell in grocery stores. CVWA has recommitted to promote farm wineries only. Further discussion regarding the farm wine act and 25% Connecticut Grown fruit rule and what the potential impacts of HB 647 may be on the Passport program. Commissioner Hurlburt suggested that CVWA create proposals to recommend and that Senator Cohen is interested in helping. Rebecca Eddy will review the statute language related to CFWDC and Passport program to share with members at the next meeting. Jon Edwards expressed concern over the bottle bill and issues of proper sterilization. George Motel expressed concern over additional bills, including the increase in minimum wage and impact of damage from wildlife (bears) to crops.
 - b. **Financial:** Rebecca Eddy reported that as of 7/18/19 the Council had expenditures of \$1,096.84, encumbrances of \$16,574.00, and a balance of



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\$73,345.51. Rich Ruggiero made a motion to accept the financial report. Jon Edwards seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

- c. **Big E:** Rebecca Eddy provided an update regarding the new tasting booth build-out and improvements to the existing booth, as well as the status of the license application process.
 - d. **Research and Education:** Rebecca Eddy and Rich Ruggiero provided an update on the Twilight meeting held on June 19, 2019 held at Paradise Hills Vineyard and Winery in Wallingford. Attendance exceeded expectations, wonderful speakers and a wealth of information presented. There is approximately \$900 left in the allocated education budget. Discussion ensued regarding holding another education meeting for growers and possible topics. George Motel thanked Rich for his hospitality and Rebecca for her work in coordinating the event. Suggested looking at a bigger facility as participating continues to increase.
 - e. **Passport:** Rebecca Eddy provided an update on the mobile app roll out and updates as well as the incentive prizes for mobile users. Discussion ensued on how to allocate the unused monies as not all incentive prizes were attained by users. Jon Edwards made a motion to allocate up to \$2,500 to purchase make good gifts for mobile app users who created an account prior to July 1, 2019 with the first option being Munson wine chocolates, second option to support CT Farm wineries or a 3rd option of \$25 gas cards. Linda Auger seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
Rebecca reported that since the last meeting the Facebook page has experienced a 3% growth in the number of fans with 8,599 as of 5/9/19. A total of 30 posts reached 94,760 people at no expense to the Council.
5. **Old Business:** Commissioner Hurlburt advised that the attraction signs on the highways are managed by DOT. Agency is looking into who the appropriate contact is.
6. **New Business:**
- a. CT Wine Festival: George Motel thanked Commissioner Hurlburt for attending in person. Weather impacted attendance on Saturday. No major issues, winery participation was down.
 - b. Blue Wine signs: Discussion over who authorizes them. CVWA owns licensing rights and DOT installs. Ask Mark Hood to look into appropriate contact person.



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7. **Adjournment:** Jon Edwards motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rich Ruggiero seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Eddy, July 26, 2019