



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2021

10:00 AM

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Linda Auger, Rosemary Bove, Hilary Criollo, Jonathan Edwards, Jamie Jones, George Motel, Dr. Michael O'Neill, Cara Sawyer, Indrajeet Chaubey

Members Absent: Washington DaSilva, Richard Ruggiero

DoAg staff: Rebecca Eddy, Jaime Smith, Crystal Morris

Guests: Max Gigle, Robert Swarts, Mike Provencher, Dan Maher and Darcy St. Onge

- 1. Call to Order:** Jaime L. Smith called the meeting to order at 10:04 p.m. Rebecca Eddy welcomed Council members and guests. Introductions were made.
- 2. Review and approval of Special Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2020.** Mike O'Neill motioned to accept. Jonathan Edwards seconded. All in favor, motion passes
- 3. Public Comment:** none
- 4. Reports:** Jaime Smith made a motion to move the Passport to the first report. Linda Auger motioned to accept. Jonathan Edwards seconded. All in favor, motion passes.
 - a. Passport:** Max Gigle, Robert Swarts, Mike Provencher, Dan Maher, and Darcy St. Onge discussed options regarding the Wine Passport Application. There was introduction and a basic overview of two types of applications: Native Mobile App vs Progressive Web App. Both were discussed with the members at length. There was time for Q & A from the members. NIC CT will develop of pros/cons of each

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type with initial features, cost, and project timeline. Jon Edwards reiterated that this needs to be done right, June 1 would be okay. George Motel recommended turning this over to the subcommittee, opening the presentation up participating wineries. Rebecca Eddy will reach out to wineries requesting 1-2 prize suggestions from each participating winery and circulate updated application.

- b. **Legislative:** Commissioner Hurlburt reiterated that he is open to suggestions and recommendations. Jonathan Edwards noted that farm wineries should be include in extension of deliveries and liquor sales to go. George Motel stated that liquor stores are now looking for approval to ship out of state and wholesalers to do tastings – both things that were exclusive to farm wineries in the past. Jon Edwards added that the brewing industry is pushing back on meal mandate and would like to see farm wineries included if that exemption goes through. Jamie Jones commented that he appreciates the agency efforts to keep industry informed and mindful of boundaries in lobbying.
- c. **Financial:** Financial: Rebecca Eddy provided update on financial status. Encumbrances: \$3,140 (CT Grown Magazine); The CT Grown Magazine is currently being distributed. There is approximately \$128,000 available balance. Jonathan Edwards motioned to accept report. Michael O’Neill seconded. All in favor, motion adopted.
- d. **Big E:** Rebecca Eddy advised members there is \$15,000 appropriated for this year. Focus is on updating technology and ensuring COVID compliance. Plans are to move forward in preparation that Big E will open. Rosemary Bove provided an update from meeting with Big E building managers and Eastern States regarding COVID policies. At this time, a 40% capacity in buildings (not including vendors) is being proposed. More discussion will continue with W.S. Dept of Health. Discussion by members and they will continue to move forward with preparations for Big E.
- e. **Research and Education:** Rebecca Eddy mentioned there will be regulations for treatment plans for producers so they may be able to address the SLF situation. A communications toolkit is in the works for both producers and general public to identify this invasive pest. Rebecca will email a link to CAES SLF website to all licensed farm wineries.



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5. **Old Business:** None
6. **New Business:** Rebecca discussed an email she received from a Mansfield wine manufacturer regarding the wine council support of non-farm wineries. Discussion ensued. There was all discussion regarding bills that are being discussed right now. (wine being sold in grocery stores) Discussion ensued and Commissioner will take the information back to staff attorney and OLR for confirmation that focus is on farm wineries or engage legislature to clarify language.
 - New appointment letters are needed for the wine council. Send Rebecca an email stating your interest (resigning your seat or staying) with your resume.
7. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Hurlburt motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Eddy, February 11, 2021