



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Commissioner



860-713-2507
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Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2021
10:00 AM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Members Present: Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt, Linda Auger, Rosemary Bove, Hilary Criollo, Washington daSilva, Jamie Jones, George Motel, Dr. Michael O’Neill, Richard Ruggiero, Cara Sawyer
Members Absent: Jonathan Edwards, Indrajeet Chaubey
DoAg staff: Rebecca Eddy, Kayleigh Royston
Guests: Ed ? (independent writer of Woodbury)

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed Council members and guests.
2. **Review and approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021.** Linda Auger motioned to accept. Mike O’Neill seconded. All in favor, motion passes.
3. **Public Comment:** none
4. **Reports:**
 - a. **Financial:** Rebecca Eddy reported that the Council has \$114,136.50 available to encumber. Current encumbrances total \$28,651.40 for the mobile app development and associated year 1 fees. The next CIA deposit will be after July 1 for the new fiscal year of \$11,875 per quarter. \$55,000 has been earmarked for the marketing RFP, with \$15,000 for Big E; \$2,500 for Research & Education and \$11,300 for Passport prize purchases. Linda Auger moved to approve the financial report as presented. Hilary Criollo seconded. All in favor, motion passes.
 - b. **Big E:** Rosemary Bove reported on update from ESE – as of May 29 all MA restrictions will be lifted and Town of WS is falling in line with Governor Baker’s; next ESE meeting is Tuesday, 5/25, looking to operate at full capacity. Will ask about lifting of food requirement with alcohol sales. Discussion ensued on wineries comfort levels with staff and participation and DECD’s requests from vendors to keep public and employees safe.
 - c. **Research & Education:** SLF quarantine working on management protocols for businesses. Discussion ensued on future topics, style of meetings and offering hybrid versions to draw from a larger range of professionals in a cost-effective manner.
 - d. **Passport/Marketing:** Rebecca reported that contract is in place for the mobile app with phase 1 scheduled to be available in July and phase 2 available in September. The marketing RFP was posted and responses received, however will be reissued to adhere to guidance. Continuing to work on collection of prizes for Passport program. Discussion ensued on promotion of Passport and communication with industry and participants.
 - e. **Legislative:** Commissioner Hurlburt discussed proposals that are potentially



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impacting wine industry. Jamie Jones asked about labeling of CT wine – already required at federal level; redundancy.

5. Old Business:

a. Appointments: Rebecca thanked members for sending information for reappointment and SFI ethics filings. Commissioner Hurlburt echoed appreciated.

6. New Business: none

7. Adjournment: Mike O’Neill motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Eddy, May 24, 2021