



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for 10 September 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	P
George Motel	gmotel@bozzutos.com	Sunset Meadows Vineyard	P
Gary Crump	garyvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiller	svollweiler@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	A
Gregory Weidemann	gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu	Dean & Director UCONN	A
Bill Nail	william.nail@ct.gov	Ct Agricultural Station	P
		Department of Tourism	A

Farm Winery Attendees

Jim Frey		Walker Road Vineyard	
Bridget Riordan	bridget@chamard.com	Chamard Vineyard	
Joe Gouveia	gouveiavineyard@sbcglobal.com	Gouveia Vineyards	
Manny Miranda		Miranda Vineyards	
Harry James		Crystal Ridge Vineyards	
Nick Smith	info@stoningtonvineyards.com	Stonington Vineyards	
Jim Jerram	jerramwinery@hotmail.com	Jerram Vineyards	
Howard Bursen	sharpehill@snet.net	Sharpe Hill Winery	

Guests

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Robert Pellegrino		DOAG
Jamie Smith	jamiesmith@ct.gov	DOAG
Phil Arte		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 Jamie Smith 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 Corrections were made to the 10 June 2010 minutes;
- 2.3 Under line item 1.4, correct Jamie Smith to Jamie Jones.
- 2.4 Motioned carried with changes outlined above.

3 Chairman Reports

- 3.1 The Chairman stated that the information he received about this year's Connecticut Wine Festival was extremely positive. He sent his regrets that he could not attend this year.
- 3.2 The budget for Fiscal Year 2011 is being finalized and needs to be submitted to the Governor's Office by 1 October 2010. The Commissioner reminded everyone that with the elections there will be a new Governor and will possible be a new Commissioner of Agriculture.
- 3.3 The Wine Development Council will be funded in 2011 by the Community Investment Act, but this will be the final year of funding for the Council by either the DOAG or the Community Investment Act. The funding total will be \$47,500

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 A written treasures report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 06/09/10 to 09/08/10.
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$34,385.39 ending balance \$35,120.63
- 4.4 No activity during this time period.
- 4.6 Copies of the budget were distributed.
- 4.7 *A motion was made by Dick Auger and seconded by Gary Crump to accept the report. Unanimous vote.*

5 Old Business

5.1 Legislative Update

- 5.1.1 Update was given under the Chairman's Report

5.2 Big E Update

- 5.2.1 Bob Pellegrino stated that each participating winery would receive \$294 per day.
- 5.2.2 Jamie Smith asked if all participants received their package from the Big E and Gary Crump was the only one who did not receive it.
- 5.3 Bob and Jamie reminded everyone that the hours of the Big E are 9:00 to 9:00 and the booth has to be attended during those hours. They also reinforced the fact that traffic in the area is extremely heavy during the morning, so arriving early is a way to ensure a parking spot.
 - 5.3.1 It was noted that the wineries can sell anything BUT wine.
 - 5.3.2 All wineries will hand out Passports and Wine Broshures.

5.4 Long Range Planning Report

- 5.4.1 Reviewed Long Range grape growing possibilities.
- 5.4.2 Growth of the Wine Industry equals revenue for the State
- 5.4.3 It was noted that a small group of wineries grow a large protion of grapes in the State.
- 5.4.4 **Recommendations:**
 - 25% Rule is fair and equitable for all wineries
 - Minimum acres should be part of the state Statues.

Fruit wine is a valid wine and is part of the current wine culture.

The 7 year minimum for establishment of a vineyard is fair, but only in terms of establishing a vineyard; it should not be extended to a sale or re-purchase of an existing vineyard.

5.4.5 George Motel will submit a copy of all recommendations to the Council for record.

5.4.6 Discussion:

Enforcement of the Statute should be in the Department of Agriculture and not in the Department of Consumer Protection (Liquor Control).

Different classes of wineries or "Tiers" or wineries was not well defined Raw data from the survey would be good to distribute.

Planted and production of a startup vineyard was discussed and having only "200 vines" planted does not constitute a startup vineyard.

The difference between "Leased and under Control" of vineyards needs clarification.

Many people are now growing grapes and that's what they want to do. How does "control" of grapes work within the Statute?

If it is the Councils wish to have more grape growers then increasing the percent of grapes in all Connecticut wine would be an incentive for more vineyards to contract with grape growers as long as the State Law allowed the grapes and or juice to count in their 25% minimum.

Growers need support from the winemakers. They need to be assured that if they grow grapes they will be purchased by the wineries.

Consumers are demanding Connecticut Grown grapes/wine.

5.5 Wine Festival

5.5.1 Festival went very well. The weather was perfect.

5.5.2 Very much improved logistics were noted.

5.5.3 Greater number of attendees this year over last year.

5.5.4 Although final accounting is not yet complete, it looks as though it was a profitable event for the CVWA.

5.5.5 Over 90 exhibitors attended the festival

5.5.6 The Gate was up 55 -60% for a total of over 5,000 people.

5.5.7 Next year the CVWA will work on a major sponsor of the festival.

5.6 Budget Forecast - The Chairman updated the Council on the budget as follows;

5.6.1 The DOG will carry forward with their existing budget with no increase.

5.6.2 Emphasis on budget is to keep the DOAG viable and going as it is structured.

5.6.3 Farm Wine Development Council budget sunsets in 2011 budget year. So in the budget year 2012 there is no funding for the council.

5.6.4 It was suggested that maybe the Council should become a not for profit and apply for funding grants.

5.6.5 The Council should do some work with gathering data to demonstrate how the wine industry generates taxes, employment, tourism to the State. This type of information is invaluable when talking to elected official.

5.6.6 Grants may be available to help in devising a survey to study the impact of the industry in Connecticut.

5.7 UCONN Survey Update

5.7.1 No update report.

New Business

- 6.1 Legislative Update
 - 6.1.1 No real update.
 - 6.1.2 Massachusetts passed a law to allow Farm Wineries to sell wine at Farmers Markets.
 - 6.1.3 Suggestion made to Legislative Chairman to have a Connecticut Wine Caucus. The Chairman reminded the Council that this type of activity cannot be part of the Councils remit.

- 6.2 Second Wine Festival
 - 6.2.1 Jamie Jones made a motion, seconded by Bill Hopkins to have a second Wine Festival and sale at an Eastern/Central location in the late Fall early Winter season. Discussion followed. After much discussion the motion was amended to Propose to the DOAG Commissioner to put on the Legislative agenda for 2011 the ability to sell CT Grown wine at select Farmers Markets and to allow a second wine festival every year. Motion passed unanimously.

- 6.3 Use of Wine Council Data Base
 - 6.3.1 Question was raised on status of the data base for individual winery use
 - 6.3.2 Reminded the Chairman that a request was made to seek a ruling from the AG on use of the data base as it is public record and may be available through a FOI request.
 - 6.3.3 Will have an update at the next meeting.

- 6.4 Status of Appointments
 - 6.4.1 Vacancies are open to Legislative appointments.
 - 6.4.2 The Chair confirmed that there are still three vacancies available to fill.

- 6.5 Coordination with Seafood Council
 - 6.5.1 Motion made by Gary Crump, seconded by Dick Auger to coordinate a combined Seafood Council/Farm Winery Council event.
 - 6.5.2 Events like a benefit for the Heart fund.
 - 6.5.3 Need some protocol to approve use of the Fame Winery Council name/logo.
 - 6.5.4 Motion was amended to; Allow use of the Wine Development Council name/logo for non-profit organizations by vote of Council Members with a gift or contribution back to the Council to support future activities. Motion carried.

- 6.6 Agenda for the new Legislative Session
 - 6.6.1 Motion made by George Motel, seconded by Gary Crump to have the Long Range Planning Sub-Committee continue their work and define an agenda for consideration in this Legislative session. Motion passed.
 - 6.6.2 Items that need to be considered are; Acreage requirement clarification – How does “control” of crops factor in the 5 acre minimum; Clarification of fruit vs grapes; 7 year exception, one time use only.
 - 6.6.3 Send additional items for consideration by the Sub-Committee to any member or George Motel.
 - 6.6.4 No additional legislative recommendations were put forth for this legislative session.
 - 6.6.5 Commissioner thanked everyone on the Long Range Planning Sub-Committee for all their work these past few months.

Next Meeting

10 December 2010 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

A motion was made by Gary Crump, seconded by George Motel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Draft Agenda for 10 December 2010 Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Update on the Big E.
- Update on Council Data Base use by wineries.

New Business

- Legislative Update

Meeting Close

Next Meeting