

Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council(CFWDC) Meeting Minutes for 18 June 2008

Chairman

F. Philip Prelli philip.prelli@ct.gov Commissioner of Ag.

Council Members

Dick Auger	dick@taylorbrookewinery.com	Taylor Brooke Winery
Gary Crump	garvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards
Jamie Jones	jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com	Jones Family Farm
Steve Vollweiller	svollweiller@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard

Farm Winery Attendees

Keith Bishop	kieth.bishop@bishoporchards.com	Bishops Orchards
Larry McCulloch	larry@chamard.com	Chamard Vineyards
Joe Goyveia	goyveiavineyards@sbcglobal.net	Goyveia Vineyards
Jim Frey	frey65@sbcglobal.net	Walker road Vineyards
Nick Smith	info@stoningtonvineyards.com	Stonington Vineyards
Paul Maugle	pdm-a@comcast.net	Maugle Sierra Vineyards
George Kivivda, Jr		

Department of Ag. Attendees

Louis A. Magnarelli louis.magnarelli@po.state.ct.us
Robert Pelligrino

1 Call to order

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:01 by Chairman Prelli
- 1.2 Sign in sheet was distributed and email addresses were requested of all present
- 1.3 Chairman distributed the Agenda

2 Old Business

- 2.1 Meeting minutes were reviewed.
- 2.2 Two corrections were made to the 13 March, 2008 minutes;
- 2.3 #1, page 1, first paragraph – add the following after “Council”, (department will continue to monitor funding and procedures)
- 2.4 #2, page 2, 8th paragraph change WIK(Women with Kids) to WIC (Women, Infants & Children)
- 2.5 *Motion made by Dick Auger and seconded by Gary Crump to accept minutes with amendments. Unanimous decision.*

3 Chairman Report

- 3.1 Chairman Prelli thanked the former members of the CFWDC, Nick Smith and Larry McCulloch for their long term service to the development of the Farm Wine industry in Connecticut.
- 3.2 The Chairman noted that in the new appointments diversity of membership was needed to balance the voice of the CFWDC.
- 3.3 The Chairman announced the new CFWDC membership was based upon a ladder schedule to meet the criteria of the law 2226c Paragraph (B). The members are, with their term expiry;
- | | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------|
| Dick Auger | 7/31/2009 | 1 year |
| Steve Vollweiller | 7/31/2009 | 1 year |
| William Hopkins | 7/31/2010 | 2 years |
| Jamie Jones | 7/31/20010 | 2 years |
| Gary Crump | 7/31/2012 | 4 years |
- 3.4 The Chairman reported that \$47,000 in funding for budget year 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009 is in place for the Council based upon approved funding of the State Legislature from the budget approval year 2007/2008.
- 3.5 Chairman Prelli announced that the Big E board of Trustees/Executive Committee has asked the CFWDC to participate in a booth with breweries to give samples during the 17 day fair. Wineries will be able to take orders but no sales are allowed at the Fair. The Fair is held from 19 September to 28 September. All wineries are eligible to participate. A random drawing will be held to determine dates of participation of each winery. Discussion was opened to the floor for comments from winery owners. Two issues surfaced; timing of grape harvest and how participating wineries would be promoted.
- 3.6 *Gary Crump made a motion to allow the CFWDC to explore licensing and permittee discussions for the Big E to go forward. Seconded by Jamie Jones. Unanimous vote.*
- 3.7 New discussion ensued on how to pick the winery for Connecticut Day at the Big E.
- 3.8 *A motion was made by Jamie Jones and seconded by Dick Auger to have the top medal winner of the Big E Gold Medal Wine Competition win Connecticut Day to display/pour their wines. Motion was unanimous.*

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 No formal Treasurer's report was submitted. Bill Hopkins, CFWDC treasurer submitted an oral report. Bill reported that we have \$33,235.08 in the checkbook.
- 4.2 The Chairman informed Bill that in all future meetings a formal, detailed treasurer's report will be required. The report will contain all invoices, payments, reimbursements, as well as interest accrued in the account.
- 4.3 Additionally, any vendor commitments and costs that associated with those commitments must be reported.
- 4.4 Discussion ensued about a formal budget for the CFWDC. The Chairman stated that there is no formal budget in place.
- 4.6 In the future a budget will be required.
- 4.7 DOA will bring forward an initial budget plan.
- 4.8 The Chairman reminded the CFWDC that all items must be bid per State of Connecticut Policies and Procedures.

5 New Business

- 5.1 Legislative Update
- 5.1.1 Gary Crump reported that there has been a change in the Farm Winery definition where there is now a five acre minimum to be classified as a Farm Winery.
- 5.1.2 Nick Smith requested a copy be sent to all wineries in the State. Gary Grump stated that the new legislation is on the Ct.Gov website.

5.1.3 Farm Market selling of "Connecticut Grown" wines was discussed. Discussion was specific to using existing license to sell at identified Farmers Markets. There is negotiation that needs to occur between DOA and Liquor Commission to resolve.

5.1.4 The Chairman stated that the CFWDC cannot lobby for specific legislative changes to legislation. The DOG legislative aid can lobby on their behalf.

5.1.5 Gary Crump stated that the CVWA passed a resolution that states that only the CVWA lobbyist can talk to the legislative staff about legislative matters. Individual members should not talk to legislators.

5.1.6 New legislative items that should be brought forward are the following;

- Remove the 9:00 pm alcohol sales restriction and make it the same as restaurants.
- Allow sale of bottle and case wine at festivals(Vermont recently passed legislation)
- Allow sale of wine at certified Farm Markets

5.2 Winery Brochure

5.2.1 The Chairman announced that the DOA will produce a winery brochure to include all Connecticut Farm Wineries. A letter was sent to all wineries for information to include in the printing. Some members expressed concern that they had not received the letter. The Chairman stated that another communication will go out to the wineries. The DOA will fund the brochure. Volunteers to work on this effort were requested and Gary Crump and Linda Auger were selected.

5.2.2 Gary Crump stated that the CVWA member wineries prints a brochure with "dollar for dollar" matching grant from the CFWDC.

5.3 Accounting of Wine Festival

5.3.1 The Chairman requested of Gary Crump that he re-forward a detailed accounting of the expenses associated with this activity from the Festival Organizer to the CFWDC by the next meeting for review and discussion.

5.4 Winery Marketing

5.4.1 Nick Smith asked that the CFWDC become more active in marketing Connecticut wines to restaurants, package store associations and wholesalers. Maybe a section in liquor stores with special signs to give to liquor stores or to attach to restaurant menus that clearly identify Connecticut wines.

5.4.2 This item was continued to Septembers meeting to further refine the proposal.

6 Meeting Close

6.1 Gary Crump moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Jamie Jones and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting

10 September 2008 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

Draft Agenda for September 10th Meeting

Call To Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Update on Big E Liquor Permit
- Establishment of budget for CFWDC for current legislative year
- Winery brochure update
- Wine Festival financial report
- Winery marketing to restaurants, liquor store and wholesale distributors

New Business

- Legislative Update
- Passport winner selection process
- Ranking of wineries and comments based upon Passport results

Meeting Close

Next Meeting