



Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council (CFWDC)

Meeting Minutes for 10 December 2009

Chairman

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

Council Members

Dick Auger	dick@taylorbrookewinery.com	Taylor Brooke Winery	P
Jamie Jones	jamie@jonesfamilyfarms.com	Jones Family Farm	A
Gary Crump	garyvin27@sbcglobal.net	Priam Vineyards	P
Bill Hopkins	hopkinsvineyards@charter.net	Hopkins Vineyards	P
Steve Vollweiler	svollweiler@yahoo.com	Sharpe Hill Vineyard	P
George Motel	gmotel@bozzutos.com	Sunset Meadows Winery	P
Gregory Weidemann	gregory.weidemann@uconn.edu	Dean & Director UCONN	A
Bill Nail	william.nail@po.state.ct.us	Ct Agricultural Station	P
		Department of Tourism	A

Farm Winery Attendees

Joe Gouveia	gouvaievineyard@sbcglobal.net	Gouveia Vineyard
Catherine & Jim Jerram	jerramwinery@hotmail.com	Jerram Winery

Guests

N/A

Department of Agriculture Attendees

Robert Pelligrino	DOAG
Jamie Smith	jaimie.smith@ct.gov

1 Call to order

- 1.1 Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Acting Chair Pelligrino
- 1.2 Sign in sheet was distributed and email addresses were requested of all present
- 1.3 Agenda and minutes to the last meeting were distributed
- 1.4 *Gary Crump motioned to accept the minutes second by Steve Vollweiler discussion ensued*

2 Meeting Minutes

- 2.1 Meeting minutes were reviewed.
- 2.2 Minutes were accepted unanimously.

3 Chairman Reports

- 3.1 There were no major items to report.
- 3.2 Big E update will be discussed under old business.
- 3.3 Budget for 2010 will be reviewed under new business.

4 Treasurers Report

- 4.1 A written treasurers report was submitted by Bill Hopkins.
- 4.2 The time period was from 09/10/09 to 12/10/09
- 4.3 Beginning checkbook balance was \$30,164.81; ending balance \$30,164.81
- 4.4 *A motion was made by George Motel and seconded by Steve Vollweiler to accept the report. Unanimous vote.*

5 Old Business

- 5.1 Legislative Update
 - 5.1.1 A request was made of the Council for any items to include in this years Legislative session.
 - 5.1.2 Two items were mentioned; Wine in grocery stores; and a second Wine Festival for non-profit organizations. This would allow a Summer and Winter Wine Festival. One would be in the Western part of the State and one for the Eastern part of the State. Discussion followed and it was generally agreed that it was an idea worth pursuing.
- 5.2 Big E
 - 5.2.1 Discussion was re-opened on participation of the Wineries at the Big E. Several items were discussed again with a desire by Connecticut Farm Wineries to sell wine by the glass or for bottle sales.
 - 5.2.2 An option was discussed on whether to participate all 17 days.
 - 5.2.3 Staffing was mentioned as a problem for small wineries especially on weekends. Utilizing home winemaking clubs was discussed and it was concluded that teaching them about each wineries product line would be problematic. It was agreed that wine staff should be used.
 - 5.2.4 *The \$5,000 budget for the Big E staffing was reviewed. After much discussion, Gary Crump motioned and Steve Vollweiler seconded that the \$5,000 be divided over the 17 days of the Fair to reimburse the Wineries as a stipend. The stipend (\$300) can be used to offset the wine poured at the Fair or to pay Wineries employees. Given that there are 30 Farm Wineries, and 17 days to cover, if two wineries wanted to staff the same day, then the stipend would be split between both wineries (\$150). Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously.*
- 5.3 Wine Festival Report
 - 5.3.1 No report tendered.
- 5.4 Passport Information
 - 5.4.1 The number of completed Passports received this year showed an approximately 50% increase to 1,457
 - 5.4.2 The program is very successful and brings many customers into the wineries.
 - 5.4.3 Jamie Smith distributed the "Guidelines for Participation in the CT Farm Wine Development Council Passport Program" for review. A few minor changes were made.
 - 5.4.4 This document will then be distributed to all the licensed Farm Wineries for signature and to document any changes that may be needed to each wineries page in the Passport. This document must be signed and returned to Jamie by 10 February 2010.

- 5.4.5 2010 Program will include printing 50,000 Passports at a cost of ~\$10,000.
- 5.4.6 A motion was made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Hopkins to pay Ginger up to \$500 to input the email addresses into the data base and to copy/send comments sections of Passport to individual wineries as a method of feedback on their performance. If the \$500 amount is exceeded in hours, then a re-allocation vote from the Council will be needed. Motion passed.
- 5.4.7 The Passport program winners list is at the bottom of this document.

5.5 The Old Market Survey was posted to the web site.

6 New Business

6.1 Funding for Council

- 6.1.1 A review of the budget was made for 2010
- 6.1.2 The council will receive \$47,500 in funding through the "Community Reinvestment Act" less 10% for administration fees for the Department of Ag.
- 6.1.3 Payments from the Act will be received on a Quarterly basis.

6.2 Specialty Crop Grant

6.2.1 Jamie Smith presented information on the next Specialty Crop Grant application period. It was suggested that the CVWA apply for the grant to "Promote the Connecticut Wine Industry". The grant can be a multi purpose one that could help with funding of the Wine Festival, continuation of the Passport Program and for general promotion of the Farm Winery Industry in Connecticut. The maximum grant is \$75,000 and no match is required. Jamie is hosting seminars across the State for information for interested groups.

6.3 Grape Growers Needed

- 6.3.1 Wineries expressed a growing interest in Connecticut grown grapes for winemaking.
- 6.3.2 A request was made to the DOAG representative to inform local farmers of the need for wine grapes and the current requirement for a 25% minimum of Connecticut grown grapes needed to support the Farm Winery Act.
- 6.3.3 The Wine Council reminds all Farm Wineries that they must adhere to the State requirement for a minimum of 25% Connecticut grapes in their total wine production.

6.4 Meeting Schedule for 2011

March 11th
 June 10th
 September 9th
 December 9th

6.5 Passport Winners

2009 Grand Prize Winners

Michael Aron	West Hartford
Dava Pollinger	Coventry

2009 Weekend Getaway Winners

Lisa Klebart	South Windsor
Tamara Scaggs	Manchester
Chuck McNeiece	Milford
Rick Maiocco	Shelton

Janet Harris	New Milford
Veronica Libby	Wallingford
Wendy Iacino	East Hampton
Michael Sokola	Manchester
Alan Greggis	Prospect
Sonya Regalado	Waterbury
John Wetzel	South Windsor
Lawrence Snyder	Plainville
Kate McCallum	Stamford
Heather Collins	Middlefield
Terry Finazzo	Canton

Meeting ended at 12:30 with a motion to adjourn made by Gary Crump and seconded by Bill Hopkins.

Next Meeting

March 11th , 2010 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Conference Room #G-8A

Draft Agenda for 11 March 2010 Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting Minutes Review

Chairman Report

Treasures Report

Old Business

- Big E review
- Long Range Planning for Farm Wine Industry
- Wine Festival Update
- Budget Forecast
- Promotional Opportunities for Farm Winery Industry

New Business

- Legislative Update

Meeting Close

Next Meeting