

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**  
*Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts*  
*March 8, 2005*

The meeting was called to order by President Nicewicz at 1:00 PM. Individuals present were Bill Amidon, Wes Autio, Rich Bonanno, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, David Chandler, Jon Clements, Carl Damateo, Bill Fitzgerald, Duane Greene, Megan McCaffrey, Ken Nicewicz, Mark Parlee, Mo Tougas, Andre Tougas, and Steve Ware. Nicewicz gave words of welcome and announced that Ron Prokopy would be receiving the Agricultural Awareness Day Award (posthumously) on March 10 at Ag. Day at the Statehouse.

***Secretary's Report***

Autio presented membership figures so far for 2005, with 35 active, 64 associate, 15 courtesy, and 7 life members. It was noted that the category for exhibitor members was discontinued after 2003. Autio also presented the minutes of the November 19, 2004 Directors' Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

***Treasurer's Report***

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$45,956.78. Receipts to date totaled \$17,166.37, and disbursements totaled \$4,256.87. The balance on March 8, 2005 was \$58,866.28. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$532,531.37. A total of \$223.22 in receipts and \$12,060.67 in expenses have occurred to date. Of the expenses, \$10,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation to contribute to an endowment in support of tree-fruit IPM research established by Linda Prokopy. The balance on March 8, 2005 was \$561,642.34. So far in 2005, the Horticultural Research Fund has gained 5.5% of its value. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed.

***Committee Reports***

Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, Annual Meeting Facilities, Program, Legislative, Cider, UMass Fruit Advisory, Harvest Labor, and Marketing committees reported. Steve Ware reported for the Cider Committee and offered the following motion:

**Motion:** *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association will reimburse Robert Smiley for \$126.09 in expenses incurred in support of cider producers. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Carlson reported that the Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund pledged \$250,000 to the UMass Foundation to be added to the MFGA Horticultural Research Center Research Fund (established by MFGA in 1997). It will be transferred to the UMass Foundation at the rate of \$50,000 per year for five years. The State will match the \$250,000 with \$125,000 to be added to the endowment.

Nicewicz reported for the Marketing Committee by introducing Bill Amidon and Megan

McCaffrey who are leading an effort to utilize large artistic apples for promotion and outside displays this summer and fall. Sponsors of the program will be able to use one of these apples and will receive several promotion opportunities.

**Motion:** *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association will expend \$2,500 of the remaining Specialty Crops money to be a sponsor of the Apple Art Program at the "Apple-a-day" level, allowing us to own the apple at the end of the Program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Autio presented a proposed budget for 2005 (see below). No amendments were offered, and the budget was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

	Budget 2004	Actual 2004	Budget 2005
Beginning balance	\$23,029.56	\$23,029.56	\$34,388.93
<b>Receipts</b>			
Interest	\$300.00	\$180.19	\$200.00
Membership	\$11,000.00	\$10,575.00	\$10,000.00
Fruit Meetings (net income)	\$13,000.00	\$15,862.90	\$8,000.00
Apple Market Report	\$350.00	\$336.00	\$350.00
Proceedings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cider	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer Meeting	\$500.00	\$820.00	\$500.00
Web page	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$752.08	\$0.00
Total	\$25,650.00	\$28,526.17	\$19,050.00
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Administration	\$2,100.00	\$1,924.82	\$2,000.00
Proceedings	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00
Fruit Meetings (net cost)	\$0.00	\$1,094.16	\$0.00
Affiliation	\$50.00	\$535.00	\$450.00
Apple Market Report	\$350.00	\$336.00	\$350.00
Horticultural Research Fund	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cider	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$7,301.00	\$7,301.00	\$7,651.00
N.E. Tree Fruit Research Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer Meeting	\$1,000.00	\$1,575.00	\$1,000.00
Web page	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$1,700.82	\$1,000.00
Total	\$(19,001.00)	\$(17,166.80)	\$(15,651.00)
Ending Balance	\$29,678.56	\$34,388.93	\$37,787.93

### ***Old Business***

Autio presented the lists of Life and Courtesy Members. Life Members include John Blanchard, William Bramlage, William Lord, Dominic Marini, Jesse Rice, Anthony Rossi, and Everett Wilder. Courtesy Members include Wesley Autio, Jon Clements, William Coli, Daniel Cooley, Douglas Gillespie, Steven Goodwin, Kip Graham, Duane Greene, James Krupa, Sonia Schloemann, Robert Schrader, Joseph Sincuk, Petrus Veneman, Sarah Weis, and Cleve Willis. The list was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Nicewicz set the date for the Annual Summer Meeting as July 18, 2005 (Monday).

### ***New Business***

Bonanno discussed a proposal to fully combine our winter meeting with the New England Vegetable and Berry Conference into the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference. It would be held every other year, and MFGA would not hold a large meeting/trade show in the alternate year. The profit will be split in three equal ways among the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, and the Extension organizing group.

**Motion:** *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association will become an equal partner in the production of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference. We will share in the costs and in the profits and will not offer an alternate-year conference and trade show.* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*