

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
December 1, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Parlee at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, Tom Clark, Jon Clements, Glenn Cook, Joanne Dinardo, Alex Dowse, Kip Graham, Tom Hastings, Andrew Martin, Ken Nicewicz, Mark Parlee, Rick Robar, Tim Smith, Andre Tougas, Mo Tougas, Steve Ware, and Cleve Willis. Parlee gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the February 17, 2010 directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$25,798.60. Receipts to date totaled \$120,013.39, and disbursements totaled \$112,179.01. The balance on December 1, 2010 was \$33,632.98. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$330,451.02. A total of \$978.82 in receipts and \$53,762.25 in disbursements have occurred to date. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 1, 2010 was \$286,752.47. So far in 2010, the Horticultural Research Fund has lost 13.2% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment change, however, was an increase of 2.8%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Legislative, Cider, UMass Fruit Advisory, Harvest Labor, and Marketing Committees gave brief reports.

Ben Clark, Mark Tuttle, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Gerry Bierne, and Chris Smith were nominated for Directors at Large for 2011-2013 and will be placed on the ballot.

Kip Graham gave a brief update from USDA FSA.

Old Business

Cleve Willis presented progress toward the Prokopy Endowment. Specifically, he described a new, reduced goal of \$825,000. If the fund can reach that goal, Dean Steve Goodwin will match the output from the fund and hire an Extension Professor of Tree-fruit Entomology. Much discussion ensued, and it became clear that this goal was far more attainable than the previous \$1.5 million. To date, a total \$330,000 have been raised by family and friends, and a few individuals are available to potentially end the fund raising once the goal is nearly met.

Motion: *The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association supports*

Dean Steve Goodwin in his effort to develop an endowment to support the position of Extension Professor of Tree-fruit Entomology. We will commit to participating in this development effort and will attempt, through various sources including membership, to raise \$300,000 out of the total needed. A subcommittee (Nicewicz, Clark, Tougas, and Autio) will determine various ways to raise this total. The motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

New Business

Alex Dowse presented the idea of developing a survey of pick-your-own apples in Massachusetts. It was agreed by consensus that this idea was good and should be pursued. Autio will canvas the directors for input on Dowse's draft and will develop an online version of the survey.

The date of the Annual Meeting was discussed, and it was decided to hold it in conjunction with the upcoming Commonwealth Quality meeting on January 7, 2011, at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*