

**Minutes**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**  
*UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center*  
*January 24, 2024*

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President Ben Clark. President Clark offered words of welcome to the membership. Approximately 50 individuals were present.

***Minutes of the December 13, 2022 Annual Business Meeting***

The minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

***Secretary's Report***

After multiple membership renewal mailings, 156 individuals paid 2023 membership dues. Below are the membership figures for 2017-23. With courtesy and life members, the total membership in 2023 was 176.

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Active members	81	77	83	68	77	80	78
Associate members	48	50	49	55	88	80	78
Courtesy members	13	15	15	16	14	15	15
Life members	4	4	3	3	4	5	5
Total	146	146	150	142	183	180	176

The Annual Business Meeting was on December 13, 2022 in person at the NEVFC and via Zoom, with 31 individuals in attendance. Directors met on March 9 and December 5, 2023 in Westminster, and the Annual Summer Meeting was held on July 12, 2023 at Honey Pot Hill Orchard with 120 in attendance. The Secretary's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report***

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$97,540.52. Receipts totaled \$32,584.97, and disbursements totaled \$24,514.85. The balance on December 31, 2023 was \$105,610.64. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$263,064.25. A total of \$2,223.56 was disbursed in 2023. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2023 was \$301,531.88, a 14.6% increase for 2023. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. Details follow on the next page. Through email to the president, the auditor (Nicewicz) stated that he reviewed the financial material and found them in good order. The Auditor's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

***Other Business***

Legislative (Dowse) and Harvest Labor (Broderick) committees gave brief reports.

***Nominations Committee Report and Elections***

On behalf of the Directors, Autio presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Chelcie Martin for President, Peter Mitchell for First Vice Presidents, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, and Ken Nicewicz for Auditor. Gerry Beirne, Katie Carlson, Joanne DiNardo, Joshua Fitzgerald, Al Rose, and Andre Tougas were nominated for directors with 3-year terms. The election followed. All officer nominees were elected, and Gerry Beirne, Katie Carlson, Al Rose, and Andre Tougas were elected to serve 3-year terms as directors at large.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Treasurer's Report for 2023

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Balance -- Bank of America + PayPal, 12/31/22</b>			<b>\$97,540.52</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	Associate member dues	\$1,914.94	
	Active member dues	\$15,376.70	
	Winter Meeting	\$11,672.97	
	Summer Meeting	\$2,893.72	
	Horticultural Research Fund Donation	\$255.15	
	UMass Programs, Publications, general donations	\$471.49	<b>\$32,584.97</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	Administration	\$6,502.81	
	Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$4,000.00	
	Error -- reimbursed 1/3/24	\$923.50	
	Summer meeting	\$1,400.00	
	Affiliations	\$70.00	
	US Apple Association	\$7,777.00	
	Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$100.00	
	UMass Fruit Program Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	
	Miscellaneous	\$2,741.54	<b>-\$24,514.85</b>
<b>Balance -- Bank of America &amp; PayPal, 12/31/23</b>			<b>\$105,610.64</b>
<b>HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND</b>			
<b>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/22</b>			<b>\$933.52</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	Transfer from Merrill Lynch	\$2,500.00	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	Cider jugs for UMass Cold Spring Orchard --2022	\$847.56	
	Insurance for UMCSO sprayer	\$500.00	
	Cider jugs for UMass Cold Spring Orchard -- 2023	\$876.00	<b>-\$2,223.56</b>
<b>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/23</b>			<b>\$1,209.96</b>
<b>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/22</b>			<b>\$262,130.73</b>
<b>Cash</b>			<b>\$9,372.41</b>
<i>Equities</i>	AUTOMATIC DATA PROC	\$23,297.00	<b>\$135,889.57</b>
	BAXTER INTERNTL INC	\$3,866.00	
	EXXON MOBIL CORP COM	\$14,997.00	
	GE HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES INC SHS	\$2,396.92	
	GENERAL ELEC CO REG SHS	\$11,869.60	
	MERCK AND CO INC SHS	\$21,804.00	
	OCCIDENTAL PETE CORP CAL	\$4,478.25	
	ORGANON AND CO REG SHS	\$288.40	
	QUALCOMM INC	\$28,926.00	
	RTX CORP CORP	\$5,048.40	
	WALMART INC	\$18,918.00	
<i>Funds</i>	AMERICAN BEACON SMALL CAP VALUE FUND CL A	\$6,418.37	<b>\$155,059.94</b>
	BLACKROCK GLOBAL DIVIDEND PORTFOLIO CL A	\$5,069.36	
	DELAWARE IVY MID CAP GROWTH FD CL A	\$15,045.96	
	INVESCO S&P 500 EQUAL WEIGHT ETF	\$31,560.00	
	ISHARES MSCI EAFE	\$9,042.00	
	ISHARES MSCI EAFE SMALL CAP	\$6,190.00	
	ISHARES MSCI EMERGING MKTS	\$2,010.50	
	JP MORGAN INCOME BUILDER FUND CL A	\$3,924.75	
	SECTOR SPDR CONSMRS STPL	\$10,804.50	
	SECTOR SPDR INDUSTRIAL	\$17,098.50	
	SPDR US FINANCIAL SECTOR ETF	\$9,400.00	
	TECHNOLOGY SELECT SECTOR SPDR	\$38,496.00	
<b>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/23</b>			<b>\$300,321.92</b>
<b>Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund</b>			<b>\$301,531.88</b>
Overall change in value in 2023			14.6%