

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
December 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Chelcie Martin, Wes Autio, Ken Nicewicz, Andrew Martin, Katie Carlson, Glenn Cook, Jon Clements, Jaime Piñero, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Alex Dowse, Jon Dowse, Bill Broderick, Mo Tougas, Al Rose, Ben Clark, Peter Mitchell, and Jianyu Li. Martin gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the April 2, 2025, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. On December 12, the association had 72 active, 69 associate, 18 courtesy, and 5 life members.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$116,801.39. Receipts as of December 12 totaled \$36,114.53, and disbursements totaled \$22,538.75, leaving a balance of \$130,377.17. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$358,092.36. A total of \$20,738.32 has been expended, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 11 was \$399,595.57, for an overall change of +11.6%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Reports

Legislative (A. Dowse), UMass Fruit Advisory (C. Martin), and Harvest Labor (Broderick) committees and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Tougas) reported briefly.

Motion: The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. supports the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources making September officially Apple Month. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion: Because of the long-term and continuing support provided to the UMass Cold Spring Orchard by the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc., we strongly oppose charging use fees for projects at the farm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ballot

Autio presented a tentative ballot, including Peter Mitchell for president, Courtney Basil and Katie Carlson for vice presidents, Wes Autio for secretary and treasurer, Ken Nicewicz for auditor, and Ben Clark, Glenn Cook, Susan Conant, Joanne Dinardo, and Mark Parlee for directors at large. After a brief discussion Jon Dowse was nominated for third vice president. The ballot to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

The Annual Meeting will be held at Red Apple Farm in Phillipston on January 21, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*