

**Minutes**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**  
*Red Apple Farm, Phillipston, MA*  
*January 21, 2026*

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by President Chelcie Martin. President Martin offered words of welcome to the membership. Approximately 75 individuals were present.

***Minutes of the December 17, 2024 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, 141 individuals paid 2025 membership dues. Below are the membership figures for 2019-25. With courtesy and life members, the total membership in 2025 was 164.

Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active members	83	68	77	80	78	75	72
Associate members	49	55	88	80	78	64	69
Courtesy members	15	16	14	15	15	14	18
Life members	3	3	4	5	5	5	5
Total	150	142	183	180	176	158	164

The 2025 Annual Business Meeting was on December 17, 2024, in person at the New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference in Manchester, NH, with about 30 individuals in attendance. The spring Directors' Meeting was held on April 2, 2025, and the fall was held on December 12, 2025. The summer meeting was at Honey Pot Hill Orchard in Stow on July 15, 2025. The Secretary's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

***Treasurer's Report***

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$116,801.39. Receipts totaled \$36,123.22, and disbursements totaled \$23,268.72. The balance on December 31, 2024 was \$129,655.89. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$358,092.36. A total of \$313.47 was received as a donation, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2025 was \$393,290.81, a 9.8 % increase for 2025. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. The full report is on the next page.

***Other Business***

Harvest Labor (Broderick) and Marketing (Martin) committees gave brief reports, and Rick LeBlanc gave a brief report from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

***Nominations Committee Report and Elections***

On behalf of the Directors, Autio presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Peter Mitchell for President, Courtney Basil for First Vice President, Katie Carlson for Second Vice President, Jon Dowse for Third Vice President, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, and Ken Nicewicz for Auditor. Ben Clark, Glenn Cook, Susan Conant, Janne Dinardo, and Mark Parlee were nominated for directors. Four will serve for three years and one will replace Jon Dowse as a director. A motion was made that the secretary cast a single vote for the ballot as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Of the directors, Clark, Cook, Dinardo, and Parlee will serve 3-year terms, and Conant will serve a 1-year term.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

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

Treasurer's Report for 2025

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Balance -- Bank of America + PayPal, 12/31/24</b>			<b>\$116,801.39</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	Associate member dues	\$3,552.96	
	Active member dues	\$17,028.72	
	Winter Meeting	\$9,964.17	
	Summer Meeting	\$3,203.60	
	CD Interest	\$2,348.77	
	Miscellaneous	\$25.00	<b>\$36,123.22</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	Administration	\$5,701.62	
	Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$4,000.00	
	Summer meeting	\$2,158.63	
	Affiliations	\$70.00	
	US Apple Association	\$8,350.00	
	Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	
	Website	\$1,025.00	
	Horticultural Research Fund Donation transfer	\$313.47	
	Miscellaneous	\$1,500.00	<b>-\$23,268.72</b>
<b>Balance -- Bank of America &amp; PayPal, 12/31/25</b>			<b>\$129,655.89</b>
<b>HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND</b>			
<b>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/24</b>			<b>\$1,306.38</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	Donation	\$313.47	
	From Merrill Lynch account	\$27,000.00	<b>\$27,313.47</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	Cider jugs	\$2,278.32	
	Laser grant	\$5,000.00	
	Sprayer insurance	\$500.00	
	Orchard equipment	\$11,600.00	
	Pinero grant	\$1,360.00	<b>-\$20,738.32</b>
<b>Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/25</b>			<b>\$7,881.53</b>
<b>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/24</b>			<b>\$356,785.98</b>
<b>Cash</b>			<b>\$10,240.51</b>
<i>Equities</i>	AUTOMATIC DATA PROC	\$25,723.00	<b>\$129,095.60</b>
	EXXON MOBIL CORP COM	\$18,051.00	
	QUALCOMM INC	\$34,210.00	
	RTX CORP CORP	\$11,004.00	
	WALMART INC	\$40,107.60	
<i>Funds</i>	BLACKROCK GLOBAL DIVIDEND PORTFOLIO CL A	\$6,603.25	<b>\$246,073.17</b>
	FIRST TR SMID CAP RISING DIVID ACH	\$11,496.00	
	FIRST TRUST CAPITAL STRENGTH ETF	\$18,502.32	
	FIRST TRUST RBA AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL RENAISSANCE TM ETF	\$19,664.00	
	INVESCO S&P 500 EQUAL WEIGHT ETF	\$19,156.00	
	ISHARES MSCI EAFE	\$11,523.60	
	ISHARES MSCI EAFE SMALL CAP	\$7,753.00	
	ISHARES MSCI EMERGING MKTS	\$2,735.50	
	ISHARES U.S. EQUITY FAC ROTATION ACTIVE ETF	\$30,405.00	
	PACER US CASH COWS100	\$12,034.00	
	ST STRT CONSUMER STAPLES SLCT SCTR SPDR	\$11,652.00	
	ST STRT FINANCIAL SLCT SCTR SPDR ETF	\$13,692.50	
	ST STRT INDUSTRIAL SLCT SCTR SPDR ETF	\$23,268.00	
	ST STRT TECHNOLOGY SLCT SCTR SPDR ETF	\$57,588.00	
<b>Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/25</b>			<b>\$385,409.28</b>
<b>Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund</b>			<b>\$393,290.81</b>
Overall change in value in 2025			9.8%