

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.**  
*Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts*  
*March 26, 2026*

President Mitchell was unable to attend due to illness, so the meeting was called to order by Vice President Carlson at 1:00 PM. Individuals present were Katie Carlson, Jon Dowse, Ben Clark, Chelcie Martin, Susan Conant, Alex Dowse, Ken Nicewicz, Wes Autio, Andrew Martin, Bill Broderick, Mark Parlee, Andre Touga, Mo Tougas Pat Kriksceonaitis, Glenn Cook, and Jon Clements. Carlson gave words of welcome.

***Secretary's Report***

Minutes of the December 12, 2025, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. After one membership renewal request, the association had 35 active, 17 associate, 18 courtesy, and 5 life members.

***Treasurer's Report***

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$129,655.89. Receipts as of March 26 totaled \$9,330.48, and disbursements totaled \$5,205.62, leaving a balance of \$133,780.75. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$393,290.81. A total of \$0 has been expended, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on March 26 was \$393,860.05, for a change of +0.1%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

***2026 Budget***

Autio presented a draft budget for 2026. It was amended to increase the donation to the International Fruit Tree Association to \$2,000. Also, the \$2,000 budgeted as a UMass sponsorship will be allocated \$1,500 to the Fruit Program and \$500 to the Vegetable Program. The budget was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. The final version appears on the next page.

***Reports***

Legislative (A. Dowse), UMass Fruit Advisory (Clark), Harvest Labor (Broderick), and Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion (C. Martin) committees and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Tougas) reported briefly. The MFGA website was also discussed briefly, led by Clements. C. Martin briefly discussed the Fruit Survey that she is leading, encouraging everyone who has not already done so to participate.

***New Business***

The Annual Summer Meeting will be held at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research and Education Center. July 8 was selected as the date, but discussions with orchard staff suggest that it should be changed. At the time of this writing, July 15 was being considered..

Autio presented the list of Life and Courtesy members for review. One addition was approved: John Galvan (UMass Extension).

The Ronald J. Prokopy Award Committee announced that this year's award will be given to Bob Davis in recognition of his lifetime of support to the fruit industry and MFGA.

Courtney Basil has stepped down from her position as First Vice President. Katie Carlson will become First Vice President, and Jon Dowse will become Second Vice President. We will find a candidate for Third Vice President before the next election at the Annual Business Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*

**General Fund Budget -- 2026**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Budget 2026
<b>Beginning balance</b>	\$115,752.07	\$115,752.07	\$128,606.57
<b>Receipts</b>			
Membership	\$17,000.00	\$20,581.68	\$17,000.00
Winter meetings	\$8,000.00	\$9,964.17	\$250.00
Summer Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$3,203.60	\$250.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$2,373.77	\$1,000.00
Total	\$29,000.00	\$36,123.22	\$18,500.00
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Administration	\$6,500.00	\$5,701.62	\$6,500.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Winter meetings	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,800.00
Affiliation	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$8,350.00	\$8,350.00	\$8,400.00
Summer Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$2,158.63	\$3,000.00
Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
Web page	\$275.00	\$1,025.00	\$500.00
IFTA Research Fund Donation	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
UMass Fruit Program Sponsorship	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$313.47	\$1,000.00
Total	\$26,945.00	\$23,268.72	\$30,520.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$117,807.07	\$128,606.57	\$116,586.57

EPA Sprayer/RimPro	\$735.85
UMass Programs	\$313.47
General Fund Balance	\$129,655.89