

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
March 9, 2004

The meeting was called to order by President Nicewicz at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, David Chandler, Tom Clark, Jon Clements, Carl Damateo, Bob Davis, Alex Dowse, Kip Graham, Duane Greene, Tony Lincoln, Ken Nicewicz, Doug Reid, Bob Smiley, and Steve Ware. Nicewicz gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Autio presented the minutes of the December 3, 2003 Directors' Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$32,963.11. Receipts to date totaled \$16,040.71, and disbursements totaled \$7,851.23. The balance on March 9, 2004 was \$41,152.59. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$438,664.18. A total of \$4,084.72 in receipts and \$293.43 in expenses have occurred to date. The balance on March 9, 2004 was \$463,606.67. So far in 2004, the Horticultural Research Fund has gained 5.7% of its value. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, Annual Meeting Facilities, Legislative, Cider, UMass Fruit Advisory, Harvest Labor, and Marketing committees reported. Carl Damateo from Massachusetts Farm Bureau, Doug Reid from the College of Natural Resources & the Environment Development Office at UMass Amherst, and Kip Graham from Worcester County USDA Farm Services Agency contributed to the various discussions of these committees. Much discussion ensued.

Old Business

Davis reintroduced efforts to enhance endowments in support of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. Autio presented a 10-year budget projection comparing current membership practices to using a 10-year free membership as an incentive to donate to the endowment.

Motion: *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. supports the effort to build and endowment in support of operations at the University of Massachusetts Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

Motion: *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. Offers 10 years of free*

active membership to any individual donating \$2,500 to the endowment in support of operations at the University of Massachusetts Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

New Business

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Autio presented the following budget for 2004.

General Fund Budget -- 2004

Category	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004
Beginning balance	\$17,636.01	\$17,636.01	\$23,029.56
Receipts			
Interest	\$300.00	\$280.91	\$300.00
Membership	\$12,000.00	\$11,175.00	\$11,000.00
Fruit Meetings (net income)	\$11,725.00	\$11,605.65	\$13,000.00
Apple Market Report	\$350.00	\$372.00	\$350.00
Proceedings	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00
Cider	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$500.00
Summer Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Web page	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$24,875.00	\$24,118.56	\$25,650.00
Disbursements			
Administration	\$2,600.00	\$2,087.45	\$2,100.00
Proceedings	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,700.00
Fruit Meetings (net cost)	\$0.00	\$211.00	\$0.00
Affiliation	\$450.00	\$1,015.00	\$50.00
Apple Market Report	\$350.00	\$288.00	\$350.00
Horticultural Research Fund	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Cider	\$500.00	\$650.00	\$500.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$8,204.00	\$8,204.00	\$7,301.00
N.E. Tree Fruit Research Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Summer Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Web page	\$1,140.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$169.56	\$1,000.00
Total	\$(21,344.00)	\$(18,725.01)	\$(19,001.00)
Ending Balance	\$21,167.01	\$23,029.56	\$29,678.56

The budget was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Autio provided a list of Life and Courtesy Members. No motions were offered to alter the list of Life Members. The following list of Courtesy Members was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously: Wesley R. Autio, Jon M. Clements, William M. Coli, Daniel R. Cooley, Stephen J. Demski, Douglas P. Gillespie, Steven D. Goodwin, Kip Graham, Duane W. Greene,

James S. Krupa, Ronald J. Prokopy, Sonia G. Schloemann, Joseph E. Sincuk, Petrus L. Veneman, Sarah A. Weis, and Cleve E. Willis.

Nicewicz presented a brief outline of activities being proposed by Anne Carter and Kelly Erwin which will be in support of utilizing more local farm products in school lunches.

Motion: *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. will contribute \$1,000 in matching funds to the Farm-to-school program.* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Nicewicz appointed a committee to study membership increases based on USDA FSA lists of fruit growers. Committee: Nicewicz, Carlson, and Autio.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*