

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
December 3, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 2:10 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Rick Bartlett, Bill Broderick, Rich Bonanno, Frank Carlson, Tom Clark, Jon Clements, Bob Davis, Alex Dowse, Paul Fisher, Bill Fitzgerald, Kip Graham, Tony Lincoln, Ken Nicewicz, Bob Smiley, Tim Smith, Mo Tougas, and Steve Ware. Smith gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Autio presented the minutes of the February 13, 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 \$73,816.82. Receipts to date totaled \$42,042.02, and disbursements totaled \$74,240.40. The balance on December 3, 2003 was \$41,618.44. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$360,625.01. A total of \$4,314.30 in receipts and \$11,677.59 in expenses have occurred to date. The balance on December 3, 2003 was \$430,927.32. So far in 2003, the Horticultural Research Fund has increased in value by 19.5%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund, Annual Meeting Facilities, Program, Legislative, Cider, UMass Fruit Advisory, Harvest Labor, and Marketing committees reported. Much discussion ensued.

Motion: *MFGA will contribute \$150 to support Ag. Day at the State House.* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Old Business

Graham gave an update on the Crop Disaster Program.

New Business

Motion: *MFGA Annual Business Meeting will occur on December 17, 2003 at the New England Fruit Meetings in Manchester, NH.* The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

With the meeting occurring in only two weeks, the Directors assumed the responsibilities of the Nominations Committee. The following nominations were moved, seconded, and passed unanimously: President–Nicewicz, 1st Vice President–Ware, 2nd Vice President–Kimball, 3rd Vice President–Fitzgerald, Secretary–Autio, Treasurer–Autio, Auditor–Davis, Board of

Directors–Bishop, Broderick, Clark, and Dowse.

Carlson updated the group on efforts to grow the endowments in support of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center. Much discussion ensued, and it was decided to invite Doug Reid (Director of Development for the College of Natural Resources & the Environment) to the next Directors' Meeting.

Fisher updated the group on the Trade Assistance Program, suggesting that in the immediate future, it will not apply to New England apple growers.

Some discussion occurred regarding the location and time of the next (2004/05) New England Fruit Meetings. The decision was tabled until the Annual Business Meeting on December 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*