

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
November 2, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Nicewicz at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Frank Carlson, Tom Clark, Jon Clements, Bob Davis, Alex Dowse, Tony Lincoln, Ken Nicewicz, Jamie O'Brien, Jesse Rice, Mo Tougas, Andre Tougas, and Steve Ware. Nicewicz gave words of welcome and announced that the Annual Business Meeting would be in the Armory at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference at noon on December 14, 2005.

Secretary's Report

Autio presented membership figures for 2005, with 39 active, 83 associate, 15 courtesy, and 7 life members. It was noted that the category for exhibitor members was discontinued after 2003. Autio also presented the minutes of the March 8, 2005 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 \$45,956.78. Receipts to date totaled \$27,195.21, and disbursements totaled \$24,200.69. The balance on November 2, 2005 was \$48,951.30. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$532,531.37. A total of \$28,140.93 in receipts and \$90,009.86 in expenses have occurred to date. Of the expenses, \$10,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation to contribute to an endowment in support of tree-fruit IPM research established by Linda Prokopy, \$50,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a pledge of \$250,000 over 5 years, and \$20,000 was donated to the UMass Foundation as part of a matching fund program with the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on November 2, 2005 was \$550,772.61. So far in 2005, the Horticultural Research Fund has gained 3.4% in value (including income and expenses). The overall investment return was 15.1%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Legislative, Cider, UMass Fruit Advisory, Labor, Marketing, and Publicity, & Promotion Committees and the Trustees of the Horticultural Research Fund gave brief reports.

New Business

Mo Tougas initiated a discussion regarding recognition of individuals in support of agriculture in the region. After, some discussion, Mo Tougas made the following motion.

Motion: *The Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association will contribute up to \$250 to purchase a gift for Dave Epstein (Channel 5 – Boston meteorologist) in recognition of his support of regional agriculture. This recognition will be*

given cooperatively with the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Association. Mr. Epstein will be invited to the 2005 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference banquet to be given the award. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*