

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
February 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, David Chandler, Ben Clark, Jon Clements, Bob Davis, Joanne Dinardo, Alex Dowse, Kip Graham, Duane Greene, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Rick LeBlanc, Andrew Martin, Ken Nicewicz, James O'Brien, Chris Smith, Andre Tougas, Mo Tougas, and Mark Tuttle. Martin gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the November 16, 2011 directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$34,038.93. Receipts to date totaled \$4,603.25, and disbursements totaled \$2,117.96. The balance on February 10 was \$36,524.22. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$297,573.28. A total of \$320.42 in receipts has occurred to date, and nothing has been expended. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on February 10 was \$314,292.45. So far in 2012, the Horticultural Research Fund has lost 5.6% in value. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Reports

Legislative (Dowse), UMass Fruit Advisory (Carlson), Harvest Labor (Davis), and Marketing (Nicewicz) Committees and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Davis) gave brief reports.

The group was reminded that Joe Sincuk retired earlier in the year after 40 years of service to UMass and the fruit industry.

Motion: MFGA will honor Joe Sincuk's years of service at the Annual Summer Meeting. The Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard will make arrangements. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding second-tier selections from breeding programs and the potential for developing a fruit testing association.

Motion: MFGA will hire a grant writer and develop a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant proposal to submit to MDAR. Expenditure on the grant writer will not exceed \$1,500. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Autio presented a proposed budget for 2012. It was amended to include \$1,000 for web updating. The amended budget (see details below) was moved, seconded, and passed

unanimously.

Kip Graham provided an update from FSA.

General Fund Budget -- 2012

	Budget 2011	Actual 2011	Budget 2012
Beginning balance	\$35,528.62	\$35,528.62	\$32,650.02
Receipts			
Interest	\$20.00	\$3.58	\$5.00
Membership	\$13,000.00	\$10,757.05	\$11,000.00
Winter meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
Summer Meeting	\$4,000.00	\$2,603.31	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$340.49	\$100.00
Total	\$17,120.00	\$13,704.43	\$27,105.00
Disbursements			
Administration	\$4,400.00	\$4,003.47	\$4,100.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
Winter meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Affiliation	\$650.00	\$560.00	\$600.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$6,118.00	\$6,118.00	\$6,401.00
Summer Meeting	\$2,500.00	\$2,388.75	\$2,500.00
Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Web page	\$550.00	\$515.00	\$1,550.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$47.81	\$500.00
Total	\$17,668.00	\$16,583.03	\$18,601.00
Ending Balance	\$34,980.62	\$32,650.02	\$41,154.02
Grant Money Remaining			
Specialty Crops		\$488.91	
EPA Sprayer		\$900.00	

Old Business

The development of an endowed position at UMass in honor of Ron Prokopy and to continue some of Ron's work was discussed.

Motion: MFGA will commit to raising \$100,000 to be given to the UMass Foundation contingent on acquiring funds from other organizations to complete the endowment. Members will be asked to pledge \$2,000 each to be paid over 4 years (\$500 per year). Motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

New Business

Rick LeBlanc presented a concept for advertising agricultural products on MBTA trains.

Much discussion ensued.

Motion: MFGA will commit \$5,000 to the MBTA train advertising program. Motion was moved, seconded, and failed.

Motion: MFGA will commit \$2,500 to the MBTA train advertising program. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Annual Summer Meeting (in Belchertown) suggested possible dates of July 10 or 17. Jim McGovern will be invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*