

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
December 14, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Cook at 1:20 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, Ben Clark, Jon Clements, Glenn Cook, Alex Dowse, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Andrew Martin, Ken Nicewicz, Joel O'Toole, Mark Parlee, Al Rose, Chris Smith, Tim Smith, and André Tougas. Cook gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the March 16, 2016, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. On December 14, the association had 79 active, 44 associate, 11 courtesy, and 3 life members.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$63,585.10. Receipts as of December 14 totaled \$39,839.75, and disbursements totaled \$27,836.43. The balance on December 14 was \$75,588.42. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$322,319.45. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 14 was \$317,997.17, for a 2016 change of - 1.3%. However, if the \$46,400 donation to the Prokopy Memorial Fund in the UMass Foundation is not considered, the growth of the investments was 13.1%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Reports

Legislative Committee (Dowse), UMass Fruit Advisory Committee (Carlson), Harvest Labor Committee (O'Toole), and Marketing Committee (Nicewicz).

New Business

Research was discussed and there was a general consensus for MFGA to gather the Trustees of the Cold Spring Orchard and the UMass Fruit Advisory Committee and have a facilitated discussion of future directions.

Carlson described an issue with small apples being graded as fancy and not being subject to crop insurance. Carlson will draft a letter to US Apple on behalf of MFGA to suggest that size be considered as part of the determination of US Fancy grade. Cook will sign the letter.

Autio presented a draft ballot for presentation at the Annual Meeting. It included incumbents for president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and auditor. For directors, it included Chelsie Martin, Sean O'Neill, Joel O'Toole, Mark Parlee, and Mark Tuttle (with the voter choosing four). The proposed ballot was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*