

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
December 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Clark at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Ben Clark, Andrew Martin, Peter Mitchell, Jamie O'Brien, Al Rose, Chelcie Martin, Wes Autio, Ken Nicewicz, Joanne DiNardo, Andre Tougas, Mo Tougas, Bill Broderick, Alex Dowse, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Kip Graham, Amanda Mills, and Liz Garofalo. Clark gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the March 9, 2023, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. On December 6, the association had 78 active, 78 associate, 13 courtesy, and 5 life members. Liz Garofalo (UMass) and Amanda Mills (Worcester County FSA) will be added to the courtesy list.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$97,540.52. Receipts as of December 6 totaled \$32,584.97, and disbursements totaled \$22,168.75, leaving a balance of \$107,956.74. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$263,064.25. A total of \$2,223.56 has been expended on cider jugs and sprayer insurance for the UMass Cold Spring Orchard. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 6 was \$288,769.75, for a change of +9.8%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Reports

UMass Fruit Advisory (Martin), Harvest Labor Committee (Broderick), Marketing (Martin), Legislative Committee (Dowse), and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Autio) reported briefly. On behalf of FSA, Graham introduced his successor as head of the Worcester County FSA Office, Amanda Mills.

New Business

The date of the 2024 Annual Business Meeting was chosen as January 24, 2024, and will be held at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard. Liz Garofalo will work on an educational program. Lunch will be provided.

A slate of candidates for election at the Business Meeting was discussed. Several individuals will be asked to determine if they are willing to be placed on the ballot.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*