

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.

Old Mill Restaurant
Westminster, MA
March 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Chelcie Martin, Wes Autio, Ben Clark, Ken Nicewicz, Katie Carlson, Al Rose, Andre Tougas, Mo Tougas, Bill Broderick, Alex Dowse, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Andrew Martin, Courtney Basil, Glenn Cook, Susan Conant, Jon Clements, Peter Mitchell, and Jon Dowse. Martin gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the December 6, 2023, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. On March 20, the association had 39 active, 34 associate, 14 courtesy, and 5 life members. Only one membership renewal notice has been sent.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$105,610.64. Receipts as of March 18 totaled \$12,749.03, and disbursements totaled \$4,897.86, leaving a balance of \$113,461.81. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$301,531.84. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on March 18 was \$328,822.74, for a change of +9.1% so far this year. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Budget

Autio presented a proposed budget for 2024 (see below). The proposed budget was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

		Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Beginning balance		\$96,712.70	\$96,712.70	\$104,311.33
Receipts	Membership	\$17,000.00	\$17,291.64	\$17,000.00
	Winter meetings	\$0.00	\$11,672.97	\$250.00
	Summer Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$2,893.72	\$500.00
	Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$255.15	\$1,000.00
	Total	\$20,000.00	\$32,113.48	\$18,750.00
Disbursements	Administration	\$5,500.00	\$6,502.81	\$6,500.00
	Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
	Winter meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,769.00
	Affiliation	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
	U.S. Apple Association	\$6,900.00	\$7,777.00	\$7,800.00
	Summer Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$3,000.00
	Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	\$100.00	\$150.00
	Web page	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$845.00
	IFTA Research Fund Donation	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	UMass Fruit Program Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Miscellaneous	\$3,000.00	\$2,665.04	\$3,000.00
	Total	\$23,120.00	\$24,514.85	\$29,134.00
Ending Balance		\$93,592.70	\$104,311.33	\$93,927.33
			\$735.85	
			\$563.46	
General Fund Balance			\$105,610.64	

Reports

Legislative (Dowse), Harvest Labor (Broderick), UMass Fruit Advisory (Clark), Marketing (Martin), and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Tougas) reported briefly.

Old Business

Vice president and director candidates for 2025 were discussed. Courtney Basil will be nominated for 2nd Vice President, Katie Carlson will be nominated for 3rd Vice President, and Joanne DiNardo and Jon Dowse will be nominated as directors to replace the two positions to be vacated by Basil and Carlson.

New Business

Autio presented a proposed list of courtesy members for 2024: Clem Clay, Jon Clements, Daniel Cooley, Michael Fox, Elizabeth Garofalo, Kristen Hanley, James Krupa, Shawn McIntire, Lynn Mclandsborough, Amanda Mills, Jaime Piñero, Ashley Randle, Karen Schwalbe, and Baoshan Xing. The proposal was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

The 2024 Annual Summer Meeting will be held on July 10 at UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center.

Kate Hogan was nominated as this year's recipient of the Ronald J. Prokopy Award. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*