

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
November 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 1:15 PM. Individuals present were Chelcie Martin, Wes Autio, Ken Nicewicz, Bill Broderick, Alex Dowse, Andrew Martin, Courtney Basil, Glenn Cook, Susan Conant, Katie Carlson, Andre Tougas, Jon Clements, Amanda Mills, and Jianyu Li. Martin gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the March 20, 2024, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. On November 20, the association had 75 active, 65 associate, 14 courtesy, and 5 life members.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$105,610.64. Receipts as of November 20 totaled \$28,847.04, and disbursements totaled \$15,156.10, leaving a balance of \$119,301.58. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$301,531.84, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on November 20 was \$363,975.64, for a change of +20.7%. 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 Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion Committee (Martin) reported briefly. On behalf of FSA, Mills also reported briefly. Clements gave a report of administrative activity at UMass, including the process of hiring a new CAFE director.

New Business

The date of the 2024 Annual Business Meeting was chosen as December 17, 2024, and will be held at the New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference. Clements also briefly discussed the NEVFC program.

A slate of candidates for election at the Business Meeting was discussed and approved. These included Chelcie Martin for president, Peter Mitchell, Courtney Basil, and Katie Carlson for vice presidents, Wes Autio for secretary and treasurer, Ken Nicewicz for auditor, and Bill Broderick, Alex Dowse, Jon Dowse, Joanne Dinardo, Pat Kriksceonaitis, and Andrew Martin for directors.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*