

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
April 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 1:10 PM. Individuals present were Chelcie Martin, Wes Autio, Ken Nicewicz, Andrew Martin, Katie Carlson, Andre Tougas, Jon Clements, Jaime Piñero, Pat Kriksceonaitis, Liz Garofalo, Joanne Dinardo, Jon Dowse, Mark Parlee, Mo Tougas, Ben Clark, and Chris Grant. Martin gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the November 20, 2024, directors' meeting were presented, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Autio presented current membership statistics. After one membership renewal request, on April 2, the association had 32 active, 24 associate, 17 courtesy, and 5 life members.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$116,801.39. Receipts as of April 2 totaled \$9,057.63, and disbursements totaled \$2,507.86, leaving a balance of \$123,351.16. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$358,092.36. A total of \$1,360 has been expended, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on April 2 was \$354,467.92, for a change of -1.0%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2025 Budget

Autio presented a draft budget for 2025. It was amended to increase the Ag Day at the Statehouse fee to \$250 and the donation to the UMass Fruit & Vegetable Program to \$1500. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. The final version appears on the next page.

Reports

UMass Fruit Advisory (Clark), Harvest Labor (A. Tougas), and Marketing, Publicity, & Promotion (C. Martin) committees and the Trustees of the UMass Cold Spring Orchard (Tougas) reported briefly. Some discussion ensued around legislative activity, but Chris Grant (NE Vegetable & Berry Growers Association) gave a report of numerous bills of interest in the legislature.

New Business

The Annual Summer Meeting will be held at Honey Pot Orchards on July 15.

Autio presented the list of Life and Courtesy members for review. Additions to the courtesies list that were approved include Jake Aliengena (UMass Cold Spring Orchard), Maria Gannett (UMass Extension), Jianyu Li (Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass), and Elsa Petit (Stockbridge School of Agriculture, UMass).

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*

General Fund Budget -- 2025

	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
Beginning balance	\$104,311.33	\$104,311.33	\$115,752.07
Receipts			
Membership	\$17,000.00	\$21,575.24	\$17,000.00
Winter meetings	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$8,000.00
Summer Meeting	\$500.00	\$3,730.86	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$2,992.27	\$1,000.00
Total	\$18,750.00	\$28,548.37	\$29,000.00
Disbursements			
Administration	\$6,500.00	\$5,562.85	\$6,500.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Winter meetings	\$1,769.00	\$1,769.00	\$1,000.00
Affiliation	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$8,350.00
Summer Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$2,558.58	\$3,000.00
Ag Day at the Statehouse	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$250.00
Web page	\$845.00	\$845.00	\$275.00
IFTA Research Fund Donation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
UMass Fruit Program Sponsorship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,000.00	\$152.20	\$1,000.00
Total	\$29,134.00	\$17,107.63	\$26,945.00
Ending Balance	\$93,927.33	\$115,752.07	\$117,807.07

EPA Sprayer/RimPro	\$735.85
UMass Programs	\$313.47
General Fund Balance	\$116,801.39