

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference, Manchester, NH
December 17, 2024

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by President Chelcie Martin. President Martin offered words of welcome to the membership. Approximately 30 individuals were present.

Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Annual Business Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Business Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

Secretary's Report

After multiple membership renewal mailings, 139 individuals paid 2024 membership dues. Below are the membership figures for 2018-24. With courtesy and life members, the total membership in 2023 was 158.

| Category | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Active members | 77 | 83 | 68 | 77 | 80 | 78 | 75 |
| Associate members | 50 | 49 | 55 | 88 | 80 | 78 | 64 |
| Courtesy members | 15 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| Life members | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 146 | 150 | 142 | 183 | 180 | 176 | 158 |

The Annual Business Meeting was on January 24, 2024 in person at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard Research & Education Center, with about 50 individuals in attendance. Directors met on March 20 and November 20, 2024 in Westminster, and the Annual Summer Meeting was held on July 10, 2024 at the UMass Cold Spring Orchard with 100 in attendance. The Secretary's Report was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The General Fund began the year with a balance of \$105,610.64. Receipts totaled \$28,894.80, and disbursements totaled \$17,704.05. The balance on December 31, 2023 was \$116,801.39. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$301,531.88. A total of \$96.42 was received as a donation, and the balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on December 31, 2024 was \$358,092.36, a 18.8 % increase for 2024. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Other Business

Legislative (Dowse), UMass Fruit Advisory (Martin), Harvest Labor (Broderick), Marketing (Martin), and the Trustees of the Cold Spring Orchard (Tougas) committees gave brief reports.

Nominations Committee Report and Elections

On behalf of the Directors, Autio presented a slate of candidates for officers and directors, including Chelcie Martin for President, Peter Mitchell for First Vice President, Courtney Basil for Second Vice President, Katie Carlson for Third Vice President, Wes Autio for Secretary and Treasurer, and Ken Nicewicz for Auditor. William Broderick, Alex Dowse, Jon Dowse, Joanne Dinardo, Pat Kriksceonaitiws, and Andrew Martin were nominated for director. A motion was made that the secretary cast a single vote for the ballot as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Of the directors, William Broderick, Alex Dowse, Pat Kriksceonaitis, and Andrew Martin will serve 3-year terms, Joanne Dinardo will serve a 2-year term, and Jon Dowse will serve a 1-year term.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Treasurer's Report for 2024

GENERAL FUND

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Balance -- Bank of America + PayPal, 12/31/23 | | \$105,610.64 |
| Receipts | Associate member dues | \$3,183.55 |
| | Active member dues | \$18,391.69 |
| | Winter Meeting | \$250.00 |
| | Summer Meeting | \$3,730.86 |
| | Error reimbursement | \$923.50 |
| | CD Interest | \$2,068.77 |
| | Horticultural Research Fund Donation | \$96.42 |
| | UMass Programs, Publications, general donations | \$250.01 |
| | | \$28,894.80 |
| Disbursements | Administration | \$5,562.85 |
| | Secretary/Treasurer salary | \$4,000.00 |
| | Summer meeting | \$2,558.58 |
| | Winter meeting | \$1,769.00 |
| | Affiliations | \$70.00 |
| | Ag Day at the Statehouse | \$150.00 |
| | Website | \$845.00 |
| | Horticultural Research Fund Donation transfer | \$96.42 |
| | Miscellaneous | \$2,152.20 |
| | UMass Programs, Publications, general donations | \$500.00 |
| | | -\$17,704.05 |
| Balance -- Bank of America & PayPal, 12/31/24 | | \$116,801.39 |
| HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH FUND | | |
| Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/23 | | \$1,209.96 |
| Receipts | Donation | \$96.42 |
| | | \$96.42 |
| Disbursements | | \$0.00 |
| Balance -- Bank of America, 12/31/24 | | \$1,306.38 |
| Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/23 | | \$300,321.88 |
| Cash | | \$14,436.12 |
| <i>Equities</i> | | \$167,918.30 |
| | AUTOMATIC DATA PROC | \$29,273.00 |
| | BAXTER INTERNTL INC | \$2,916.00 |
| | EXXON MOBIL CORP COM | \$16,135.50 |
| | GE AEROSPACE | \$15,511.48 |
| | GE HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGIES INC SHS | \$2,423.58 |
| | GE VERNOVA LLC | \$7,565.39 |
| | MERCK AND CO INC SHS | \$19,896.00 |
| | OCCIDENTAL PETE CORP CAL | \$3,705.75 |
| | ORGANON AND CO REG SHS | \$298.40 |
| | QUALCOMM INC | \$30,724.00 |
| | RTX CORP CORP | \$6,943.20 |
| | WALMART INC | \$32,526.00 |
| <i>Funds</i> | | \$174,431.56 |
| | AMERICAN BEACON SMALL CAP VALUE FUND CL A | \$6,866.06 |
| | BLACKROCK GLOBAL DIVIDEND PORTFOLIO CL A | \$5,549.71 |
| | INVESCO S&P 500 EQUAL WEIGHT ETF | \$35,046.00 |
| | ISHARES MSCI EAFE | \$9,073.20 |
| | ISHARES MSCI EAFE SMALL CAP | \$6,075.00 |
| | ISHARES MSCI EMERGING MKTS | \$2,091.00 |
| | JP MORGAN INCOME BUILDER FUND CL A | \$4,208.06 |
| | MACQUARIE MID CAP | \$15,380.53 |
| | SECTOR SPDR CONSMRS STPL | \$11,791.50 |
| | SECTOR SPDR INDUSTRIAL | \$19,764.00 |
| | SPDR US FINANCIAL SECTOR ETF | \$12,082.50 |
| | TECHNOLOGY SELECT SECTOR SPDR | \$46,504.00 |
| Balance -- Merrill Lynch, 12/31/24 | | \$356,785.98 |
| Total Balance -- Horticultural Research Fund | | \$358,092.36 |
| Overall change in value in 2024 | | 18.8% |