

Minutes
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc.
Old Mill Restaurant, Westminster, Massachusetts
March 20, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President Smith at 1:45 PM. Individuals present were Wes Autio, Rick Bartlett, Gerry Beirne, Bill Broderick, Frank Carlson, David Chandler, Tom Clark, Jon Clements, Alex Dowse, Bill Fitzgerald, Kip Graham, Duane Greene, Gordon Kimball, Tony Lincoln, Ken Nicewicz, Jamie O'Brien, Bob Smiley, Tim Smith, Jesse Stratton, Mo Tougas, and Steve Ware. Smith gave words of welcome.

Secretary's Report

Autio presented the minutes of the December 5, 2001 Directors' Meeting. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Autio presented the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund began 2002 with a balance of \$33,485.81. Receipts to date totaled \$26,184.15, and disbursements to date totaled \$18,216.52. The balance on March 20, 2002 was \$41,453.44. The Horticultural Research Fund began the year with a balance of \$413,199.98. A total of \$25.24 was received as interest on the savings account. In total, \$1,853.28 were expended on grants. The balance in the Horticultural Research Fund on March 20, 2002 was \$434,622.61. Over the year to date, the Horticultural Research Fund increased by 5.2%. The Treasurer's Report was moved, seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Smiley reported that there were 60 paid exhibitors in 80 booths (the same as in the previous year and a decrease of 2 booths from 2000) at the 2002 New England Fruit Meetings & Trade Show. Greene asked all individuals to make suggestions for the Program at the 2003 meetings. Dowse and Nicewicz presented legislative concerns for the near future, including an announcement of Ag. Day at the Statehouse. Carlson and Ware presented potential changes in labor, and Nicewicz announced that the Specialty Crop Grant to support the develop of a marketing plan was approved for \$40,000. Clements discussed the proposal.

Budget

Autio presented the 2002 proposed budget. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Add \$1,000 to the budget to support the development of a logo for the Association. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion: Add \$2,500 to be given to the New England Tree Fruit Growers Research Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The amended budget (see below) was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

	Budget 1999	Actual 1999	Budget 2000	Actual 2000	Budget 2001	Actual 2001	Budget 2002
Beginning balance	\$3,732.05	\$3,732.05	\$9,243.18	\$9,243.18	\$9,571.68	\$9,571.68	\$14,354.52
Receipts							
Interest	\$120.00	\$100.23	\$50.00	\$29.73	\$400.00	\$534.94	\$500.00
Membership	\$12,000.00	\$11,900.00	\$12,000.00	\$11,425.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$11,000.00
Ads	\$500.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fruit Meeting	\$12,320.00	\$12,242.39	\$8,750.00	\$8,652.62	\$10,173.57	\$10,043.87	\$15,300.00
Apple Market Report Proceedings	\$450.00	\$494.00	\$450.00	\$461.43	\$450.00	\$354.50	\$350.00
Cider	\$35.00	\$140.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$55.00	\$0.00
Summer Meeting	\$2,000.00	\$694.00	\$1,000.00	\$710.00	\$500.00	\$450.00	\$500.00
Web page	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$300.00	\$493.00	\$400.00	\$390.00	\$400.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$103.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$27,425.00	\$26,413.62	\$22,970.00	\$21,881.78	\$22,993.57	\$24,328.31	\$28,050.00
Disbursements							
Administration	\$2,500.00	\$2,185.83	\$2,500.00	\$1,625.08	\$2,200.00	\$2,478.30	\$2,600.00
Proceedings	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$9,400.00	\$4,108.35	\$5,800.00	\$5,374.17	\$2,000.00
Secretary/Treasurer salary	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,600.00
Affiliation	\$400.00	\$180.00	\$400.00	\$730.00	\$400.00	\$130.00	\$400.00
Apple Market Report	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Horticultural Research Fund	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
Cider	\$3,000.00	\$2,064.66	\$1,000.00	\$447.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$3,500.00
U.S. Apple Association	\$5,867.00	\$5,867.00	\$5,295.00	\$5,295.00	\$5,268.00	\$5,268.00	\$8,092.00
N.E. Tree Fruit Research Committee	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Summer Meeting	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$300.00	\$447.85	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Web page	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$360.00	\$1,640.00
Logo Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$415.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,035.00	\$1,000.00
Total	(\$27,517.00)	(\$20,902.49)	(\$28,645.00)	(\$21,553.28)	(\$22,018.00)	(\$19,545.47)	(\$31,082.00)
Ending Balance	\$3,640.05	\$9,243.18	\$3,568.18	\$9,571.68	\$10,547.25	\$14,354.52	\$11,322.52

Other Business

Discussion ensued regarding the potential combination of the New England Fruit Meetings and the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Convention. Smith will form a committee to begin discussions.

Lincoln questioned the dates of the Directors' meetings relative to the bylaws. Smith appointed a committee (Lincoln, Dowse, & Beirne) to report back in December regarding potential changes to the bylaws.

At the previous meeting, the President was explicitly given the power to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture regarding the Specialty Crops Grant Program. The potential for funding of Agro-environmental Technologies grants was discussed.

Motion: It was moved, seconded, and passed to give the President the power on behalf of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, Inc. to enter into contracts (including the authority to sign and execute said contracts) with the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture. This authority would encompass all existing and potential grant programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Wesley R. Autio, *Secretary*