

CHGA Board Meeting

Location: CAES Windsor, 153 Cook Hill Road, Windsor, CT

Date: 7/12/2017

Attendees: Alex DeFrancesco, Matt DiSciacca, Jason Hoagland, Jim Lamondia, Larry Blum

11:38am Meeting Commenced

- Alex Gives Introduction

- Matt gives overview of Spring Quarterly minutes
 - Minutes are approved unanimously

- Pioneer Hops Farm Tour Recap
 - 15 attendees
 - Tour of farm/hopyard/facilities
 - Lasted over two hours
 - The hopyard may be expanded through purchase of additional land
 - Everyone enjoyed the tour thoroughly

- June 17 Day Events Recap
 - Event went well
 - Feedback is that it was very educational
 - Speakers enjoyed the enthusiasm of attendees
 - Demo's of harvester and pelletizer were well-received
 - The tradeshow looked great, however attendance was low
 - § Attendance likely lower due to weather and Father's Day. However next year, more advertising will be needed
 - Considering charging for the day event ahead of time per person as opposed to per car at the door.

- Beer Pairing Dinner Recap
 - Went very well
 - 70 attendees
 - 10 no-shows
 - Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food and beer
 - People are interested in a Fall event

- Brewery Passports
 - An App is being developed

- The current passports cost the state about \$60k to print
- Jason gives Treasurer's report
 - DeFrancesco Farms was reimbursed today for fronting costs for the dinner
 - Farm Credit East has paid for the bill for the CHGA's tax return preparation
 - CHGA is still pending exemption status with the IRS
 - § Jason is close to having this back from IRS
 - Jason worked on a grant application for a grant through the Uconn Extension and the USDA
 - § If awarded the grant, proceeds of \$1,000 will go towards costs for our annual meeting in 2018.
- Farm Brewery Bill
 - Governor has signed the Bill, however the official ceremony has not yet occurred
 - This allow for labeling as CT-style beer
 - § First year 25% ingredients must be CT-grown
 - § Second year, 50%
- Fall Harvest Festival
 - Tradeshow portion
 - § Growers will have actual hops samples
 - § Will help farmers sell hops and barley
 - § Brewers will be the target attendees
 - Beer-tasting portion
 - § Brewers each bring two beers
 - § Incentivizes brewers to attend to promote their own product
 - § Tickets will be sold and proceeds will go towards a fund to help defray pelletizing costs for small CT hops farmers who do not have a pelletizing machine
 - Folks who own or partially own a pelletizer will not be eligible to collect from this fund
 - § Considering \$60 per ticket
 - May go lower
 - § Need to look into insurance for the event
 - Don't go too big first year
 - § Likely cut ticket sales off at 100-150 tickets
 - Alex motions to start planning this event
 - § Jason seconds
 - § all present vote in favor

- Future Guest Speakers
 - Larry Blum from Sunco
 - § Steel posts
 - Chad Meigs
 - § NY Hop Grower
 - § Well-experienced, and has trouble-shot many problems

- 2018 Annual Meeting
 - Likely will receive the previously mentioned grant
 - USDA and Uconn Extension would like to have a 20 minute talk at the annual meeting as well as a table for an information booth

- Co-Op buying
 - Steve Schmidt
 - § Has offered for a coop buying system through the CHGA
 - § Everyone can pay him directly

- Hop Rating System
 - Over past 15 years, many NY Growers have varying quality hops
 - Many small farms
 - Poor quality hops are driving down prices
 - Many farmers agree that a rating system needs to be put in place
 - This may be set up next year, but not definite

12:33pm- Meeting Adjourned