

CT Hop Growers' Association  
Summer Quarterly Board Meeting  
July 9, 2019

Location: Joe's Filling Station, 35A Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT

Attendees: Alex Defrancesco, Jason Hoagland, Matt DiSciacca, Alan Fenrow, Joe Fydenkevez, Al Gondek, Jon Auclair, Randy Auclair, Kevin Mardorf, Joe Moon, Joe Gleason, Dan Gleason, Don Lewis, Fred Behringer, Ron Sansone

6:15pm- Commence

- Recap of Annual Meeting Minutes
  - Unanimously approved
- Treasurer's report
  - Unanimously approved
- FSMA
  - Alex is proactively working with the Dept of Ag.
  - FDA is leaving FSMA up to the states when it comes to hops and wine grapes
  - FSMA is mandatory for breweries, thus they want their suppliers to comply as well
  - CGAP is already in place for produce, so infrastructure is in place
  - Dry hopping is issue for hops and food safety
    - No kill step
  - One farm employee can be trained and certified
  - Storage/transportation
    - Sanitize!
    - Temperature/moisture content other factors
  - Going in and out of different fields/presence of animals are potential cross-contamination issues
  - Hops are not washed, facility must be clean
  - Main goal:
    - Work hand in hand with Dept of Ag.
    - DoAg will inspect and use standard checklist
      - Checklist is being finalized
    - CHGA will issue a certificate of cleanliness.
- CT Brewers' Guild Spring Meeting
  - Phil wants us to give a seminar on FSMA
  - New legislation in the works
    - Lots of good things for breweries/wineries

- One issue for vineyards: any wine manufacturer gets same benefits as vineyards
  - Many amendments coming this legislative period
  - CT took out the firewall barrier and LLC requirements for permits
- Update from CAES
  - New pathogen found
  - Jim wants all growers to let him know when they have an issue
  - Spotted lantern fly
    - Similar damage to leaf hopper
    - Adults are easily identifiable
- In the media
  - Multiple hop yards have been featured in the news
  - Great publicity
  - Please send pictures to Alex
- Upcoming Events
  - Big E Sept 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Matt, Jason and Alan to attend
  - Durham Fair
    - Education table
      - Alan and Alex to attend
  - Small State Great Beer Sept 14<sup>th</sup>
  - CT Beer farm festival
- Mail Chimp
  - Will separate full members onto one email list
- Fall Meeting
  - Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6pm
  - At Hops on the Hill in South Glastonbury
  - Will send this info when sending out minutes
- Winter Meeting 2020 will be at Alex's farm brewery
- Add-On
  - Baker Farm is decommissioning hops. They are selling the mother plants. You can go there and dig them out yourself. Get Baker contact info from Alex if you are interested.
  - Brewers' opinions of CT hops
    - Still mixed
    - More and more are being used

- Interest is increasing, however still have some initial hesitation to overcome
- Kevin Mardorf, CT Beer Trail
  - Lots of collaboration
  - Kevin owns ctbeer.com
  - He is making his first 100% CT brew
  - Folks who want to showcase their farm should reach out to Kevin
- Oil analysis is important for hops to be sold
- Ron Sansone from CT Cider Association
  - Wants to collaborate with CHGA
  - 13 cider permittees in CT, 5 are members of CCA
  - Alex motions for the CHGA and CCA to grant each other mutual membership
    - Motion is seconded and passed unanimously

Adjourn- 7:45pm