

CT Hop Growers' Association  
Fall Quarterly Board Meeting  
October 28, 2020

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: Alex DeFrancesco, Matt DiSciacca, Alan Fenrow, Jason Hoagland, Jeff Standish

Commence- 5:15pm

- Jason reports that there is nothing noteworthy from a financial standpoint
- We would like to set something up for the Winter meeting for our members to join via zoom
  - Likely have a couple of presentations, one from Jim Lamondia
- Alan visited Hop Culture Farm
  - One of the largest growers in state
  - Would like to see how they fared this year
  - Previously CHGA members
- COVID-19
  - Certified clean- holding off, this year will be on merit system
  - We should reach out to NEHA, NY Hops coalition and UVM, to see how growers in surrounding states have fared
    - Alan to reach out
  - Many brewers are facing serious budget constraints and are focused on buying at the best price, not locally
  - Some farmers have adapted by selling their hops through other outlets such as tea-making and arts and crafts
  - Alex has been in touch with the CT Brewers' Guild
    - All in all, brewers are doing better than initially expected, however many have had to close temporarily and some permanently
    - If Winter 2021 is as restrictive as the initial wave, many more may close their doors
  - Wherever possible, hop growers should diversify and grow other crops to supplement the decline in hop sales
  - The CHGA board will come up with COVID specific questions to add to the annual survey within the next couple of weeks. The goal is to have the survey out to membership before Thanksgiving to give ample time to complete
    - We should also reach out to Dr. Lamondia and Jaime Smith to see if they have questions to add

- Matt will send an email to them once the board has come up with their initial list of questions
  
- Winter Meeting/Annual Meeting
  - January 9, 2021, 2pm-4pm, zoom meeting
  - Alex will reach out to Dr. Lamondia, Heather from UVM, and the CT Dept of ag to see if folks can give presentations
    - Dept of Ag to maybe talk about grant opportunities/other aid

Adjourn- 6:05pm