

Upper Hudson Maple Producers' Association Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Offices of Farm Credit East, Route 29, Greenwich, NY 12834

Minutes

Call to order at 6:42 p.m. by President Campbell.

There were 10 members present.

Motion by Wallace with second by Grottoli to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting as read; carried.

Motion by Deming with second by Grottoli to approve the minutes of the last meeting – August 24, 2016 – as read; carried.

Motion by Grottoli with second by Wallace to accept treasurer's report - Checking \$28,902.20, Savings \$968.06, Certificate of Deposit \$10,585.00; carried.

Bennett's report from NYSMPA: Tony VanGlad has been elected as the new President. Mike went to the Farm Show in the summer and spoke with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand regarding funding. The State Fair netted the Association \$65,000, of which \$25,000 of that was ice cream sales. Helen attended a trade show in Puerto Rico in September which was paid for by Taste NY. The "NY Certified" is still being determined with regards to maple.

- State Fair Report: A "product quality team" has been established for the State Fair and as a result maple syrup and cream will be required to be labelled differently as some packaging states "Must refrigerate" while others do not. Steve Childs says that cream actually separates faster when refrigerated. The Maple Cheesecake was a huge success. 4,800 units were sold over the course of nine days, the goal being to promote granulated sugar more. Vacuum cooling was used this year and is "worked wonderfully."

The 2017 Summer Tour will be held in Lewis County this year.

The Association is working with Kevin King from Ag. & Markets to get regulation for bourbon-aged syrup and "maple water." There may not be a need for a 20(c) license with bourbon aged syrup, however, this is unclear.

Charles Wallace gave information regarding the proposed update to the building codes: In different parts of the state, jurisdictions may or may not agree with maple producers and their facilities or uses of the facility. A new draft of building code regulations may require safety features to be installed in sugarhouses such as fire extinguishers, exit signs, occupant capacity posted, etc. However, Charles says that it is best for producers to accept these minor and indeed

worthwhile precautions than be required to go to much more extensive safety measures that most industries are required to.

Old Business

Washington County Fair Recap

Dave reported that this year was the best ever for gross sales and profit. More cream and syrup could have been sold had someone been there to sample it. All were pleased with the performance of the new milkshake machine.

The Fair would like each vendor to sell a \$2 item next year on Friday; Dave will let Mark St. Jacques know we are willing to do so.

It was suggested that our education displays be updated. Randy suggested that Mary Jeanne prepare a proposal of what may be done with \$2,500-3,000 or \$5,000-6,000.

Motion by Grottoli with second by Bennett to donate \$1,000 to Steve Childs for “whatever he feels is most important;” carried.

New Business

Maple Weekend 2017

Tree Tapping

Mary Jeanne suggested we consider moving the tree tapping ceremony to a different day (other than the Friday immediately before the first weekend) as it may draw more news coverage. Toad Hill Maple is willing to hold the ceremony this year. The date Wednesday, March 15 was suggested, however, the actual date has been yet to be determined. This will be discussed more in depth at the January meeting, along with possible TV advertising.

Motion by Packer with second by Grottoli to send Dave McComb a get well soon card; carried.

Motion by Deming with second by Bennett to increase Mary Jeanne’s compensation by \$1,000; carried.

The date for the next meeting is set for January 23, 2017 at 6:30. This is our annual meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Grottoli at 8:34 p.m.; carried.

Submitted by: P. Ruger