Approved Minutes

7:00pm via Zoom 4/22/21

Board Members Present – Dave Kemp, Andrew Chisholm, Darrell Fisk, Alisha Powell, Charlie Hunt, Sue Folsom

Board Members Absent – Chris Olsen

Dave called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

* Minutes from 2/15/21 – Dave asked if everyone had read the last minutes from February and if there were any corrections, additions, or omissions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Motioned to accept made by Andy Chisholm, seconded by Darrell. All present voted in favor.
* Season Updates from Board members - Alisha said they had a great season. But not much golden, some amber rich and mostly dark. Sue said they had a good year with 75% amber and 25% dark. Andy said he and Chris Hicks had very low sugar content and only made dark and very dark. Nigh sugar for them was 1.4 and low was .7% sugar. Darrell said they made syrup in April. The Lempster lot ran well in April but not great earlier. Only about 1/3 normal. And Newbury ran well enough in April to blow out the took out the vacuum pump. Need a bigger receiver there.
* Jug situation – Dave mentioned he contacted Chris at Bacon Jug about the Nutrition Food Panel. Bill Cheney is still Container Chair but had resigned from the board. This year several dealers ran out of some jugs, especially quarts. We’ll need to order more jugs and earlier. Dave explained about having been alerted by a member the NHMPA jugs were being sold in an Agway in Peterborough. They had been sold to them by Bascoms. Dave spoke to the owner of the Agway stores who had them and he agreed to pull them and let Dave swap them out with generic jugs from his own inventory. Sue asked if we should send them a letter to let them know they have been violating their contract terms. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to make them aware these instances have been happening and should be remedied.
* Tax status change 501c6 vs 501c3 – Andy said Chris and he had not been able to get together. He was waiting until the season was over.
* NHAITC Board appointment update & news from Debbi Cox - Andy hasn’t had any emails about his being added to the NHAIT board. But he’s been added to Commissioner Jaspers Ag Advisory Board by the Farm Bureau so he will see him in a couple weeks.
* Draft Budget 2021 revision – Dave asked if folks had reviewed it. They had and no questions were asked. So, this will be brought to annual meeting. Dave asked how things were going with Morning Ag Clips and if we’ve had higher expenses since they came on board. Sue said they had been doing a lot of work during March getting up to speed with the publicity needed for Maple Month. Additionally, they had done a fair amount of work to pull together the proposal to apply for the Specialty Crop Block Grant through the Dept of Ag for us.
* Annual Meeting – Dave informed the group we will have David Moore from UNH will present in the afternoon about specialty trees for niche syrup production. And Kate Ziehm will speak from Morning Ag Clips about their relationship with the NHMPA as the new publicists. The menu had no discussion so anything they have is good. How much will we charge for the meal and get the word out to members? Last time it was a fee of $20 per person. There were no complaints about the cost in the past so it will remain the same. An email will go out to the membership about the meeting.
* Board positions for NHMPA and Maple Museum - Sue said we need to elect new board members. Sue, Dave, and Darrell’s two-year terms all expire this year. Charlie, Alisha, and Andy all filled empty seats from prior directors, so they need to be voted on for a one-year term if they wish to continue. This is because the by-laws indicate that 50% of board members must be elected in alternate years. Darrell indicated he will serve another term. Andy said he’ll serve another year. Sue said she’ll stay another term as treasurer. Alisha said she is taking a new job position so will consider taking on the secretary roll. Dave said he will serve again. Charlie will serve again too.
* Carlisle award needs – Saymore needs to be contacted about the presentation bowl and ribbons. Sue brought up a point that Dale Smith suggested to save money and trips to Saymore. If we bought a plain bowl for the annual meeting presentation, we would not have the expense of two setup charges and two trips to Saymore. We’d make up the cost of the extra bowl in about 2-3 years. Sue will contact Saymore to make all the arrangements.
* CFAP2 for 2021 - do we want to include this in our next email to the membership. Dave mentioned the visit from Congressman Pappas recently and his willingness to help the maple industry.
* MOA for Maple Museum – Dave received a new 5-year MOA from the Rocks Estate/Society for the Protection of NH Forests. They house the museum and we’ve had a good relationship so far with them with the invaluable help from Nigel Manley, their manager at the Rocks. All the prior board members terms had expired and there wasn’t any election during the 2020 NHMPA meeting. The new MOA listed us being required to pay for a full alarm system of between 10-15K, an initial 500.00 fee, annual fee of monitoring alarm of 450.00. This requirement would essentially strip most if not all the museums’ funds of $18K. Dave and Sue didn’t think this was acceptable. But we would be willing to pay a small fee towards the alarm system. Additionally, they wanted the Society to have free access to anything in the collection. We felt it should be signed out and in through the Board for accountability and transparency. Dave sent the revised MOA back to Nigel and we’ll see what they say when Nigel gets back from vacation in a couple weeks. Dave asked Sue if we had gotten a quote for insurance for the Board of the museum. She had not yet because only one former board member replied but was in favor of it. Dave asked the board if they agreed we should make this coverage effective. Darrell made a motion to get the required insurance for the board. Charlie seconded it and all voted in favor.
* Promotion needs for 2021 – Morning Ag Clips had some items for us to consider for the scope of work they might do for the rest of this year.
  + Cookbooks out of stock, signs low, sugar labels low - Sue has the company name and information about the last printing of cookbooks. Do we want to go ahead with getting more? The cost last time was roughly 3,000.00 for 500 books. They lasted 5 years from the last time they were done. Darrell made a motion that we have another 500 printed. Andy seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Darrell thinks he has a bunch of signs to turn over to Sunnyside. Darrell asked who had sugar labels in stock. Right now, only Sunnyside and Somero carry them. So could probably get by waiting on them to be reprinted later in the year or next spring.
* Other Business – Darrell asked about what was happening with the fairs, Deerfield, and Big E. He heard Deerfield and Hopkinton will run but he has no idea about crowd restrictions. The Big E had some information about restricted crowds in the buildings. But all this is subject to change since it was communicated pre-sugar season.

Dave asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Darrell Fisk , seconded by Andy Chisholm. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:54pm.