NHMPA 3/1/22 Monthly Meeting Minutes

7pm via Zoom

**Members Present**: Dave Kemp, Andrew Chisholm, Alisha Powell, Charles Hunt; Darrell Fisk joined later around 7:25 via zoom.

**Members Absent:** Doug Byam, Nathan Adams, Chris Olsen

Meeting called to order at 7:08 by Andrew Chisholm

1. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes/Upcoming Meeting Dates**
2. 2/1/22 Board Meeting Mins: motion to approve by Dave, Second by Charles. All in favor, none opposed.
3. Next Monthly meeting date: Thursday April 7 will work for everyone.
4. **Jug Shortages: Discuss Bacon Jugs, possibility of CDL Jugs.**

Andy shares that he discussed this at all the regional meetings. The idea of the CDL jugs was met with mixed reviews. The regional meeting at Intervale was least receptive to the idea, the folks at Stuart & John’s were most receptive. Andy since then has spoken with Bacon Jugs and told them we were considering getting CDL jugs and that we would be cancelling some of our order. They then escalated the issue at Bacon Jugs, and they were able to get about 68 cases shipped. McClures was allocating jugs for themselves from Bacon which was a big part of the reason for the shortage. The quart shortage is a 1.3 million dollar shortage for our members and Andy made sure that Gordy knew that; it seemed like that hit home for him. Since that time, Andy is having bi-weekly calls with Gordy up there, and he is working on helping us catch up on the backlog of jugs. Andy has asked the distributors to try to make sure that they allot the jugs out evenly to make sure that producers all get a chance to get some jugs to get through the season.

There was also some communication with Congressman Pappas’ office about the jug shortage, his aide Maeve wanted to be updated on the situation to see if they can assist with this in any way, so Alisha and Andy have emailed with them.

Andy also mentions that there is another member that is possibly interested in being a container distributor; his name is in Andy’s email. He used to get jugs from Bill Cheney. This member lives somewhere near Bill Cheney. There is mixed information regarding whether Bill is still selling jugs or not. Dave thinks that we may need to find out more about what is going on with Bill and whether he was selling them or not, and if he has decided not to sell jugs, to make sure we write him a letter of thanks for his service with this.

1. **Promotions committee update:**

We met with MAC for a promotions subcommittee meeting update this am, they are pausing the paid promotions on social media for this week since the weather is not amenable to sugaring this week and will resume these next week. The radio ads have started and are being run at great times. The internet targeted ads are also up and running.

The Governor’s Tree Tapping Ceremony is scheduled for Friday March 11 at 9am at Stuart & John’s in Westmoreland. We will be sending out an email to notify the membership about this in the next one-two days.

We have about 115 sugarhouses signed up on the website who are participating in Maple Weekend as well at this point.

1. **Participation, Recruitment, Organization and Clarity of Roles, Committees/Subcommittees**

-Kelly Byam, membership help: Kelly has started to help out with the role of responding to emails for the association. She is doing a great job of answering these messages and we appreciate her help very much.

-Dara Gove, considering a role on a committee, but she hasn’t decided yet.

-Andy is doing an in-person presentation tomorrow at a Rotary Club as well.

1. **Treasurer Transition Update:**

As of February 23, the transition is now complete with Morning Ag Clips being fully in the Treasurer Role. Sue will continue to help peripherally as needed, but at this time the official role has been completely transitioned over. We are all very thankful for the smooth transition Sue provided and her continued mentorship and help.

1. **Website issues:** There have been many ongoing issues with the website throughout this season. We are very aware that there are many problems and we need to work on this. It will be a big focus of ours after maple season ends when we can devote the needed time to it.
2. **Misc:** Darrell mentions that Ben was wondering if the candy boxes have been ordered recently, as they are supposed to go through him. Dave says they were ordered through Rice Packaging with a similar order to the last one. Darrell notes that Ben gets charged when these are made. There was an email from Rice Packaging that went to Dave saying that they need to be ordered through Ben’s. Andy states that the next time we order them, we will go through Ben for these. Darrell says that Ben may want to sell these directly, and just pay the Association a royalty for these. Ben put a lot of work into designing the diefor this. Andy wonders if Ben would be interested in selling the die to the association, as this would make the most sense for the association. Darrell will talk to Ben; Andy is also willing to go talk it over with Ben if need be. Dave notes that we order candy boxes about every 2-3 years or so.

We also changed everything over from Stripe to Square to help streamline things. The extra facebook pages have been closed as well.

Darrell also notes that he received a strange email that could have been a scam; we have all noted these scam attempts in the past and we all need to wary of these in the future.

Next meeting planned for Thursday April 7 at 7pm via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Darrell,

Seconded by Dave.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alisha A. Powell, Secretary