



NHMPA 9/25/2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes 7:30 pm via Zoom

Members Present: Doug Byam, Andrew Chisholm, Charles Hunt, Dave Kemp, John Kenney, Stephanie Kelly (Secretary), Christa Campbell (Treasurer), Kate Ziehm (MAC).

Members Absent: Chris Olsen

Meeting called to order at 7:39 pm by MAC. John Kenney texted he would be later than he expected and authorized MAC as Secretary to run the meeting.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes/Upcoming Meeting Dates

1. Minutes from August 28 - Andrew had some corrections. Motion by Doug with a second by Charlie to approve minutes with corrections; motion carried.
2. Next monthly meeting: Monday, October 23 7 pm.

Old Business

1. Committees
 - a. Containers/boxes - Bill was not on the meeting so there is no update.
 - b. Sales & Fairs - Regarding the Big E: Lynne told Stephanie on September 12 she would not deal with the Association after numerous calls and emails were not returned. Lynne said once the Champions of NH laborers and NHMPA producers are paid, Lynne will make a donation to the Association if there is any money left. Stephanie asked about the booth payment that the Association made. Andrew said he thinks the Association should not take any action on the booth payment that was made, and he thinks the relationship with Lynne and Josh Marshall's office can be repaired. Andrew does not expect there will be any donation from Lynne from this year.



- i. Andrew gave an update on Deerfield - he said it is in great shape. He has 13 producers who will be providing products for sale. He has product drop-off times figured out with everyone. The weather forecast looks fantastic so he asked some producers to bring more products. There will be advertising on Town Square media again for \$3500 on WOKQ and WHOM. Ads started today and run through the weekend, and there will be gift card giveaways on the radio. He asked the maintenance person at the Fair to check all the lighting, and he asked for regrading to help people with wheelchairs and mobility issues have easier access to the building. There is a dedicated wifi signal. Debra Locke asked a question about white sugar; Andrew confirmed there were adequate supplies for samples and cotton candy bags. Deb said she wanted to be reimbursed for the sugar that day and she would like Andrew to have signed checks to pay her back right away. Andrew said he would give her cash and submit the receipts for reimbursement. John had told Stephanie earlier that he has the opening cash for Deerfield but doesn't expect to see anyone in time to hand it over. He wondered if he should deposit it and then have someone else take it out instead? Andrew said yes.
- c. Website - Stephanie had emailed the Board that the grant was declined. Andrew said he was waiting to hear from Josh about the reason for the decline, and Josh is going to find out when that grant opens again and will help the Association submit a new application.
- d. Budget - No discussion at this point.
- e. Education - No discussion at this point.



2. Grants

- a. SCBG - Stephanie submitted the midterm report on September 18 (due June 30). MAC is tracking very accurately with Freedom Accounting. Stephanie asked for help with other pieces of grant: video development, app development, work with NHAITC, UNH Extension. Andrew has a guy who can shoot video. NHAITC is going through a transition - have to wait and see. Andrew is working with Steve from Extension - there was talk of bringing back the Maple School and it was going to be in October, but then Andrew resigned. Andrew can talk with him again. Andrew said the app could be paired with the website but since that got declined, it could still be worked on. Andrew asked how much is in the budget; Stephanie told him it is \$10,000. The app does not have to be done completely, but the Association should show some work being done. Andrew said Adam might have a list of vendors who might be able to work on this. The grant ends September 2024. The next payment will be received from the state in January 2024.
 - b. Acer - Adam had emailed Stephanie, who emailed the Board, to say the grant was reviewed and approved on September 6, and John had already approved the contract with FEAST Global. Stephanie submitted the first invoice against the grant on September 14; Adam confirmed the invoice was processed and sent to the Treasury for payment. Stephanie said she's been keeping Marianna informed about the changes on the Board. Andrew said October would be a good time to meet with Marianna and Andy and maybe Adam and Josh Marshall.
3. Maple Museum dissolution - tabled until after the Fairs.
 4. Logo trademarking - Kate Stanley was working on it; no update at this point.



5. Officers and Directors policy - MAC submitted the application for a quote on August 30 and has answered a few queries from the insurance company since then.

New Business

1. Filling Vice President vacancy - Stephanie asked how the Board envisions moving forward following this meeting. John asked if Andrew would accept a nomination for Vice President; Andrew said he would. John asked if anyone would make that motion. Motion by John with a second by Charlie to nominate Andrew for Vice President; motion carried.
2. Resignation of Charlie Hunt - Motion by Andrew with a second by Dave to accept the resignation; motion carried.
3. Resignation of John Kenney - John said he values the Association and doesn't have the necessary time to devote to what needs to be done, and sometimes with his work he is not accessible. He has enjoyed working with everyone and appreciates the support of current and past Board members. He can't say enough about how great MAC was. He's still available to help if needed. The Association has a lot of potential. Andrew said thank you to John for stepping up in June. Motion by Andrew with a second by Dave to accept the resignation; motion carried.
4. Resignation of Doug Byam - Motion by Andrew with a second by Dave to accept the resignation; motion carried.
5. 2024 Membership - Since the website has not been updated, not all members can go online to renew so MAC is assuming we will mail membership. Andrew asked about creating a link through Square for membership, Maple Digest, and Maple News and emailing that link to members. Christa said it can be done but would suggest going through Stripe and avoiding the website. Andrew said it should be as simple as



possible, and Kelly was a huge help last year. Stephanie said the membership form is used to confirm member's info so MAC would have to see if they can figure out how to include member info with the link. Christa said members should still be able to make changes to their listing info. Andrew said if someone doesn't pay, their membership shouldn't be deactivated in March - maybe wait until May or later if possible. Christa asked if the amounts would stay the same. Stephanie said the Maple News rate went up - it is now \$33. Kate Z suggested going to \$33 even though the Maple News has a Fall Sale of \$29 right now. Andrew said there should be no increase to dues unless the Association is providing value to members. The Association pays for the Maple Digest even though it is free to members. Christa said the cost is \$4 per member for the Maple Digest and \$4 per member for membership in NAMSC. Dave said non-producer members should pay for Maple Digest; Christa confirmed non-producer members don't receive it. Kate said it's important to convey to members that the cost of the Maple News has gone up, and she agrees now is not the time to raise dues. Motion by Andrew with a second by Dave for \$20 for nonproducer membership, \$40 for regular membership, \$33 for Maple News, and \$0 for Maple Digest; motion carried. Andrew suggested sending out membership in mid-October; Stephanie and Christa will work on getting it out via email and mail.

6. NHMPA Social Media contact - Kate S and Will had approved the content MAC created for September. Andrew will begin to do that for October and going forward; Stephanie said the file will come to Andrew from Lila and he can send her his feedback, approval, etc.
7. 2024 Winter Meeting arrangements - Andrew said it is typically held on the 3rd weekend of January but let's look at the 4th weekend instead because of the holiday weekend. The 27th is the first choice, and the 20th would be the second choice. The



preferred location is The Common Man. Andrew will reach out to them. Speakers include someone from NOFA-NH because of the organic grant work and someone from Town Square Media. Andrew asked about having Marianna and/or Andy from FEAST Global - Andrew asked Stephanie to reach out to them. Stephanie said the Carlisle Award needs to be coordinated with Steve from Extension. Andrew said the Ag Advisory Board voted to advise the Governor for the state to no longer pursue organic certifications. Maple producers will have to reach out to NOFA-NH or Bay State Organics or MOFGA to become organic certified.

8. Maple trade with Manchester Radio Group - Lindy Goldman from MRG asked if the NH Maple Producers might be interested in trading product for advertising - Andrew said the Association doesn't have product of its own; it represents members who have product. Dave agreed and said MRG should shop and buy it from a member themselves. Stephanie will let Lindy know.
9. Other business - Christa asked who will be approving bills for the Treasurer to pay. Stephanie said presumably it would be Andrew since he is the highest ranking officer. Deb asked about Andrew getting check-signing rights; she thought John had check-signing rights, but he did not since he was the Interim President, not the official President. Andrew has become the Interim President since John resigned.
 - a. Christa asked Andrew to confirm he has all the sheets for producers for the Deerfield Fair - Andrew said he has what Amy sent, and Christa said she sent another sheet but can resend it. Stephanie brought up again the opening money for Deerfield - Andrew said John should deposit the money he has. He needs the bank account information to make the deposit; John will call Christa to get the bank account information. Andrew will use his own money to start the registers and pay himself back out of the registers.



Motion to adjourn by Dave with a second by Andrew.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Kelly, Morning Ag Clips