

OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of December 14, 2015 meeting

The meeting was called to order by Jim Quarella at Bellview Winery at 6PM
The minutes of the last meeting were approved without objection.

Dave Davis gave a financial report indicating that the Association has about \$19,000 in its account but that a large portion of that is earmarked for grant activities. The Association collected \$4150 in membership fees last year. Dave will be sending out invoices for 2016 and soon there will also be the ability to pay dues online through the website.

The Board at its last meeting voted to keep the fees the same for this year (\$100 full member; \$50 associate member) but also added a category of Association Friend whereby consumers and others interested in wine and the OCP could join for a \$25 yearly fee. The Association Friends would receive certain notices and benefits but would not have access to the online members forum, receive membership emails or attend meetings. In addition the Association will institute a program for suppliers and other commercial entities related to the wine and beverage industry that will permit them to advertise on our website and have a link to their site. The annual fee for this would be \$200 per year.

Board Elections will be held again at the first meeting of 2016. Currently Jim Quarella and Dave Davis are up for re-election. There is also a vacant seat vacated by Kevin Martin. Jim Quarella nominated Jack Tomasello for that position and asked that any other members who wish to be considered to notify him.

The membership voted to adjust the meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with the harvest season and holidays. The meetings will now be held on the second Monday of the second month of the quarter instead of the third month. Thus meetings will now be in February, May, August and November. The 2016 schedule is: February 8, May 9, August 8, and November 14.

Proposed By-Laws amendments which were previously approved by the Board will be sent to the membership to be voted on by email.

Anita Nicolo addressed the membership to explain the Forum that will be instituted on the website for members to use. It will be accessible to members only and they can ask questions, post inquiries and information for discussion. The initial 2 categories will be viticulture and enology but it is anticipated that as the Forum grows, other more specific categories will be listed. Members will receive an email when something is posted and may opt out of a discussion (thread) if they want. Once a member's dues are paid, they will receive an email setting up their access to the Forum. In conjunction with the Forum the proposed mentorship program was discussed. Joe Procopio described his interest as a new grower and how it could be useful to him. The Forum will be used to initiate this process. Also Hemant Gohil from Rutgers noted that more new grower workshops will be forthcoming.

There was a discussion of the proposed grape crop insurance program by Jim Quarella and Dan Ward. Members were asked to sign a list to express interest in starting such a program in New Jersey. Dan Ward also reported on the status of the hiring of a new weed scientist by the Extension Service to replace Brad Majek.

Dustin Tarpine reported on the results of the grant surveys and indicated that there were fairly good responses. An additional survey will be conducted in the near future.

Member Paul Tonacci of the Atlantic City Bottling Company presented a proposal to have the association conduct a SWOT review and asked members to think about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Association before the next meeting so that we could have a discussion of strategy for future development of the organization. He will send out an email to the membership regarding this process.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:30. The next meeting, at which Board Elections will take place, is on February 8, 2016.