

2020 Annual Meeting Summary

Annual meeting of the Addison County Sugarmakers was held on February 10, 2020 at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury.

The meeting was opened with a thank-you to Laurie and Wayne for the great meal!

Moe introduced Allison Hope, the new VMSMA Executive Director. Allison spoke of her background and how she's approaching the job of Executive Director. She is working to learn what has worked and what hasn't. 2020 VMSMA will be focusing on membership. Allison reminded attendees to sign up for Maple Open House Weekend on the VMSMA website. She also spoke briefly about the Maple in Every School program. She can be contacted anytime via the VMSMA website.

Jason Gagne' presented the progress on Sugarhouse Certification. For 2020, the hope is to complete mock inspections to refine the process and work out the questions and fine tune the process. Currently, it's a voluntary program HOWEVER lack of general participation may lead to further imposed regulations that sugarmakers will have no say over. Jason reported templates for the required paperwork as well as the inspection criteria will be available online. Please contact VMSMA with questions.

Ken Button reminded the gathering of a new loan program called "Farm Credit Express" This program is available through your equipment dealer.

Pam Green motioned and Kenn Hastings seconded to accept the minutes from the last annual meeting. Motion passed.

From Dave Folino, our VMSMA director spoke on the need for the State Association. One large voice carries more weight than many little ones especially when it comes to labeling laws, water issues and the certification issues. Supporting the State Association is good for all.

Barb Rainville reviewed the balance of accounts for 2019. Maple School fell short for 2020 by about \$1,000. The Directors will be working on putting together the schedule and sought after speakers sooner for 2021.

Field Days 2019 was reported by Andrew Rainville. Andrew's low lights of the fair were that it rained everyday and some days – especially Saturday was very light on help. Highlights were even though it wasn't a banner week it's still in the top 5. Andrew anticipates raising the price of milk shakes to \$4.00, adding an official Monday Shift. The big project for 2020 will be exploring the possibly of adding on to the sugarhouse. The hope is to add on 12' to south side of the building – following the same roof line. This would create space for lockers for workers belongings, a dock/loading in area for bakery and dairy, additional storage for bakery and dairy, storage area for potable water, more refrigeration, and office space. Moe spoke briefly with members of the Field Days Directors informally and will present the idea at a Directors' meeting in the months to come. There is also potential to repair the siding and roof this year.

The Big E had a great year in 2019. But Mike Christian is always looking for volunteers. Contact him if you are interested in working a shift or two.

The Association By-laws need to be reviewed and updated. Bill Scott and Moe Rheaume will work on creating an ad hoc committee to work on the by-laws and present at next years annual meeting.

2020 Scholarship recipient was Eber Clifford of Starksboro.

Bill Scott was inducted into the ACSMA Hall of Fame.

The gathering honored Don Dolliver with a moment of silence.

Nominated slate of officers – Moe Rheaume, President, Andy Hutchison, V.P., Barb Rainville, Sec/Treas. Directors – Mike Christian and Bill Scott. State Director Dave Folino Alternate State Director Don Gale. Claude Rainville motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate, seconded Dudley Leavitt. Motion passed.

Other business – mobile sugarhouse to be up and going this year, host game of logging this summer, and nips for Maple Run.

Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was closed.