

Addison County Sugar Makers
Annual Meeting – Virtual
2/15/2022

Draft Minutes

Welcome - reminder that the meeting (via zoom) is being recorded and will be posted on the website. A moment of silence was observed for those we lost this past year including Lucien Paquette.

Secretary/Treasurer read the minutes from the last annual meeting and presented the treasurers report. Bill Scott made the motion to accept both reports as presented. Mike Christian seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Andrew Rainville presented a recap of Field Days 2021. He referred to the printed informational sheets that were provided to the membership prior to the zoom meeting and screen shared during the meeting. One thing that Andrew stressed was a good portion of the volunteers were friends of his and not even sugar makers. We need to get more help for 2022.

On-deck ideas for 2022 and beyond – a system of taking credit cards for larger ticket items. Members were concerned about the cost of transactions fees. Andrew will look at what's available and report back to the Directors later. A minimum purchase level was as discussed and will be thought out at a Directors meeting before Field Days. Pam Green mentioned that she uses Square as does Kenn Hastings for farmers markets. Also maybe venmo?

There is a thought of offering kettle corn at the Sugarhouse. The Kettle Corn guy “up the street” from the sugarhouse would consider selling it to us at wholesale and taking back whatever we don't sell at the end of Field Days week.

Addition to the sugarhouse was brought up again. It would create storage, provide a loading dock and a walk-in cooler. The addition would be about 20 X 20 and be placed at the South end of the building. The kitchen would stay where it is. The entrance would be through the storeroom. The freezer would be relocated and depending on the walk-in cooler size etc. the refrigerator maybe taken out of the building. The addition would also include residing the whole building as well as reroofing and repairing the cupola. We already have permission from Field Days to do the addition. Next steps would be to have a cost estimate.

VMSMA – year in review 2021 – July 16th was the annual meeting for the membership. The focus for 2022 will be program growth for Certification. There is a specialty crop block grant that sugar makers now qualify for. The State plans to hold their December Maple Conference. The Big E is anticipated to happen in 2022. There will be 2 maple open house weekends – 3/19-3/20 and 3/26-3/27. The Association will continue to work with the can and label issues.

Election of Officers – Andy Hutchison presented the slate of officers for the upcoming year. Moe – President, Andy – V.P., Barb – Secretary & Treasurer. County Directors for 3 years (term to expire 2025) Dave Folino and Steve Willsey. Alternate county director Jim Rowe (one year term). State Director Mike

Christian, alternate State Director Kenn Hastings (also one-year terms). Bill Scott made the motion for the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate of officers, Ken Button seconded. Slate elected as presented.

Other business

Field Days Manager – Moe nominated Andrew Rainville, seconded by Kenn Hastings. Discussion. Andrew selected as FD manager for the 2022 season. Bill Scott made the motion to give Andrew a raise to \$1000 for managing FD. Kenn seconded. Discussion. Motion passes.

Discussion of donations in the name of Lucien Paquette. Kenn motioned to give \$50 to each of Lucien's selected charities – Right to Life, Shard Villa, St. Mary's in Middlebury, Addison County Home Health. Mike Christian seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Our by-laws are very old and not in keeping with the way the county and the state associations work together anymore. Andrew had made some suggestions. Existing by-laws and Andrew's suggestions were sent to the membership prior to the meeting. Bill Scott, Kenn Hastings and Moe Rheaume will work on updating the by-laws. A call will be put out to other members to take part in this process.

Andrew reminded folks he still has some bags of walnuts left from FD he is willing to sell. Contact him if interested in purchasing a bag or two.

Ken Button said the Field Days Gala fundraiser is going to be held this year and ticket sales are going well. If interested in attending, please contact Ken. Ken also stated that the schedule for nightly entertainment at Field Days has been changed up a bit. There will be a motorcross show on Thursday night on the tractor pad. The ATM on the ground will be serviced by a company out of St. Albans.

Andy and Donna Hutchison were inducted into the Hall of Fame for their ongoing support of the Association and the maple industry and their tireless work in providing guidance and assistance to sugarmakers of all ages.

Motion to adjourn Bill Scott, seconded by Ken Button.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Rainville, Secretary/ Treasurer.