Addison County Sugar Makers

Annual Meeting

At Field Days ~ 3:15 pm

July 28, 2024

**Draft Minutes**

Welcome

Secretary/Treasurer stated that the minutes from the Annual Meeting in February 2023 and the Special Meeting in August 2024 were quite lengthy to read aloud. The February minutes have been posted on the website and the August Special Meeting minutes will be posted on the website for review immediately after Field Days. The draft minutes from this meeting will also be posted immediately after Field Days.

The Treasurers reported the amounts…..It was requested that a breakdown of income and expenses be provided. That report was written and is included at the end of these minutes.

Andrew Rainville presented the highlights of 2023. Last year was the first time the mobile sugar house was used at the Fair across the road from the sugarhouse. Only packaged items were sold out of the mobile sugar house during the afternoon and evening shifts. Seemed to work well. 2023 was one of the better years with the demolition derby being at the beginning of Fair week. Wednesday set a record for income.

Looking toward the Fair this year – Thank you to Kenn Hastings, Mike Christian and the Hescock’s for providing items for the daily raffle baskets. There will be a 50th anniversary sundae created with a donut and offered at a special price. Still looking for volunteers – at about 50% coverage. Drop off for the Maple Contest will be Saturday (8/3) from 11 – 3, Sunday (8/4) 12 -4, and all items need to be in by 11 am on Monday.

Suggestions for this year: Adam Rainville suggested a maple syrup chugging contest. Entrants pay $10 to compete and the winner gets $50 if they can keep it down. The contest would be on Saturday. Other suggestions were for anniversary T–shirts for the workers – probably too late for this year.

Big E Report: Mike Christian noted that prices were raised at the Big E for 2023. The weather was bad, but it was the 2nd or 3rd best year. He felt it was successful to contract with candy makers and syrup producers to make the candy, cream and can the syrup here in Vermont to reduce the labor and lodging costs incurred at the Big E. Mike and Kenn made the cream from the syrup that was purchased. Still looking for Volunteers for 2024 and more information will be sent out shortly.

VMSMA Report: Currently the Association is looking for a State Membership Co-Ordinator. The sugar house certification is moving forward. Currently the program is being staffed by a part-time person.

If you would like to sign up for certification, please contact the State Association. Structurally things that will need to be addressed – the use of non-potable water PVC piping and copper piping and anything that is soldered. The biggest reason to get certified is because the larger packers will only buy from certified sugar houses in the coming years.

The State is requesting $4300 from Addison County to upgrade the sap and syrup hydrometer test kits. These kits are what Henry Marckres used to check the accuracy of hydrometers.

Ed Peet moved to table the discussion, Kenn Hastings seconded the motion, motion carried.

Old Business – none

New Business -

Election of Officers:

Mike Christian presented the slate of officers for the 24-25 year. President Moe Rheaume

Mike Christian, Vice President

Secretary Brad Clark

Treasurer Barb Rainville

Directors for 3 years each Trent Roleau, Kenn Hastings, and Maurice Trayah. Alternate for 1 year Jim Rowe.

State Directors for 1 year - Mike Christian, State Director Alternate - Kenn Hastings.

Ed Peet moved to elect the slate as presented, Jill Rainville seconded. Discussion. Motion passes.

Other New Business –

What is the vision for the next 50 years?

~ more social media use to help promote maple and reach out to younger sugar makers

~ remain relevant – what is the value of membership? Recruit new members, get more participation from existing members.

~ get younger members together – small group activities, meeting at sugar house for single subject lessons – packaging, grading, monitoring lines – more hands on

~ Quarterly seminars at Sugar house

~ Who is going to step up?

~ Better outreach to young producers

~ More information on Scholarships out to people.

Ed Peet made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kenn Hastings.

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara Rainville, Secretary/ Treasurer