

Addison County Maple Sugarmakers Association
Minutes of Directors Meeting
June 19, 2025
Draft Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Moe Rheaume at 6:33pm

In Attendance:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Moe Rheaume | Barb Rainville | Brad Clark |
| Mike Christian | Andrew Rainville | Ken Button |
| Trent Roleau | Jim Rowe | Kenn Hastings |

Absent:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------|
| Dave Folino | Maurice Trayah | Don Gale |
| Steve Willsey | | |

Secretary's Report

Brad read the Secretary's report on the January 28, 2025 meeting. Motion made by Mike Christian to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Noted that Barb made it through her knee replacements and all went well. It was a text book replacement.

Barb presented the Financial statement.

Roughly the check book is around 12,000.

Money market is at \$21,000

Blake Roy fund is at \$6,400

CD \$26,000 due in October Interest rate is 2.74%

Trying to get ACH payments set up so we can pay the Webstaurant directly since we have no credit card.

Andrew has orders pending that will "help" to reduce our funds.

Field Days update - Andrew Rainville.

Moe first mentioned that Andrew got married recently. A round of applause was given!

Andrew noted wife is now contractually obligated to help out the week of field days. The same day he got married, their offer was accepted on a house in Vergennes. They will be away in Europe for 2 weeks starting July 2.

Andrew advised the signups have been distributed. Paper forms went out today. Some people have already signed up. Please reach out to your friends, we're glad to have anyone help.

Met with JJ at the Bagel Bakery who advised they would like to get out of making the bread.

Reached out to Mike from Chittenden County, and was advised they use Blackburn bakery

which is in Essex. Andrew is reaching out to them about getting bread from them. Working on getting pricing, supplying maple syrup, etc.

Getting a lot of items coming in from Webstaurant store. By setting up ACH payments we can get a tax exemption.

Will also get tax exemption from the supplier we get the candy containers from.

Glass fronted fridges have arrived.

The coloring competition will be running in the Addison Independent starting today.

July 21 we need a few people to go to AI to help pick the winners. 6 age categories, picking 2 winners per age group. They will pick up their prizes the week before the fair. 2 tickets to the fair, and \$10 to use at the maple barn.

Maple contest – Need to update light boxes. Moe will take a look at them next week. He thought it would be relatively easy to add shelving.

Mobile Sugarhouse had been okayed again at the fair, sponsored that area across from the sugarhouse with tent again by Broughtons Hardware.

Mike Christian asked if they wanted he & Kenn to make cream again for the fair. Moe said, that would be good if they made the same as last year. We also make some at the fair as it is good to see it made there.

Mike got a machine from Alibaba that works great to put cream on the donuts and for putting it on the ice cream cones. He had an image of it, as well as a video of one in operation. Mike will bring his to the fair to get the bugs out before it goes to the Big E.

Trent Roleau made the motion we purchase one. Motion seconded. All were in favor. Mike will order one, but we do not expect it to arrive before field days.

Creating “Paid” tickets so people can pay for items at the center island and then pick them up at the other places.

Mike Christian also offered to get the report cards from Esselhart that are used by the state. The submitter will do the testing initially to make sure it is worthy of judging. Mike will bring the items needed to do the testing. This would not work for the syrup dropped off at some of the off-field days locations.

There were 81 submissions for syrup and items made with maple last year.

Working on:

Finalizing the set up of the wireless to be able to better process credit card transactions. We are sharing the connection with the Lions. Andrew is checking with Adam on it.

Discussion on getting some different coffee. We get the cases of coffee from Tony Neary, and he also donates the use of the coffee maker.

Discussion on adding more insulation to the cooler. The health inspector wanted us to not just have the flake board exposed so it at least needs a coat of paint.

Moe mentioned Blake Roy was a maple inspector for many years. Had gotten to the point he could tell where it came from in the state, whether it was on the mountain or lower. Also could sometimes tell whose syrup it was.

Field Days board – Ken Button

Mowing is a problem. Lots of it to do.

3 nights again for the demo derby

VTPA Friday, and NY pullers on Saturday.

Their fundraising for the capital campaign is going okay. They are at \$100,000 now.

Working on the official program that will have a full page ad with a QR code for donations. It will be in all buildings at the fair also.

Donations are coming out of everywhere. Mostly Addison County names, and getting donations that are not really expected.

Lions has put up \$10,000, and verbally putting up \$5000 the next 3 years.

Brad asked if there was going to be a display with what they were going to do with the money.

Not planned to be, but will describe it as an endowment fund.

The money from the Dept of Ag is expected to be divided 4 way between the fairs.

State Association – Mike Christian

Doing planning for the BigE

Going away from getting barrels, going to have Gonyea do the bottling as they have a very nice bottling line.

Gonyea bought out Maple City Candy in Swanton. Providing all of the candy again this year.

Kenn & he are making cream, 750 pounds so far. Others are welcome to come and see how they do it and teach them how to do it also.

Regarding the State association:

Not much has been going on since The Maple open house weekend.

More & more people getting their sugar houses certified. Money out there to help people to bring theirs into compliance.

Barb asked what the state is doing with grading kits. Maple Landmark has not seen an order for the wooden bases yet. They told people they could return their bases and get a \$3 credit. Mike will try to find out what is going on at the next meeting.

Old Business

Maple grading school in Addison County. Nothing further on this.

New Business

Asked all directors if they wanted to stay on.

Any thoughts on what to do for the lunch at the annual meeting. Probably stick with the sandwiches from Pratts like last year. Will try to remember to take the ice cream out this year to make it easier to scoop.

There were no applications for the scholarship. Kenn asked if the Vocational center had been contacted, and they had been.

Some reported a good season, some average. Low sugar content was noticed.

Vermont as a whole reported over 3 million gallons, making 53% of the Maple crop for 2025.

Also made mention of the ice storms that devastated Wisconsin, and may have completely wiped out the Michigan trees.

Moe purchased the labeling machine the state had for sale. Cannot pick it up as seems like everyone is on vacation when he has time to get it.

Only dealers can purchase the state jugs from D&G. If you need to get some, Moe can let them know so you can pick them up through them.

Barb heard that Anthony Neary is not doing well. He had lung cancer, got through that, and now has brain cancer.

Will need a preliminary count for the annual lunch no later than Wednesday. Brad will send out another email this weekend.

Adjournment

Mike Christian made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

A couple reminders:

Dues are still \$10 and can be sent to Barb Rainville, 598 Browns Rd, Lincoln, VT 05443

We need to consider adding more people to the Addison County Sugarmakers Hall of Fame. Barb will look into who has been put on it in the past.