

Addison County Sugar Makers Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
At Field Days
June 28, 2025

President Moe Rheaume called meeting to order at 1:02pm.

Secretary's Report:

Members in attendance read over the minutes of the last Annual meeting. Discussion on use of lead-free solder in peoples home that are processing maple syrup. B.Clark thought it would be checked with the water test that is needed as part of the sugar house certification.

Ken Hastings made motion to accept the secretary report as presented. Motion seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Barb Rainville reported the following:

Credit Union – 7 month CD	\$26,024.55
Blake Roy	\$6,392.25
Money Market	\$21,154.90
National Bank Checking Acct	\$8,182.78

Amount in National Bank is lower than last week as Andrew has been purchasing for Field Days.

The Blake Roy fund was created for Addison and Rutland counties. We use about \$100 per year for the Blake Roy Award.

If anyone wants to review the books, just let Barb know.

Field Days Report

Andrew Rainville presented the highlights of 2024.

4 out the 5 days were record days. Friday was the 25th worst Friday because of the heavy rain.

Many renovations to the sugar house – Ceiling, Exterior paneling, Cooler room.

We did not do the syrup chugging contest. Raffle did go well.

Emergency bakery stepped in because Middlebury Bagel Bakery was closed on Thursday. We got donuts from a bakery in Rutland. Did increase the price, then did not lower after reverting back.

Only 1 person noticed.

Mobile sugarhouse is getting more recognized.

Broughton's is paying for the space again this year.

Saturday Evening shift was minimal.

Coloring contest is running in the Addison Independent right now. Judging will take place the week before Field Days. Prizes are 2 tickets to the fair and \$10 to use at the maple barn.

Small Clear front fridges will be used for water this year.

Switching over to liquid sugar for slushies. There is a whole science to slushies.

Will be using Paid coupons.

Bakery – Talked with Middlebury Bagel Bakery. They do not want to do the bread for us as it takes so much extra work. We have contacted the bakery used by Chittenden County up in Essex.

We will hopefully have a better connection for processing card transactions this year.

Reviewed expenses from 2024.

Went over really needing more people to volunteer to make sure we have all locations covered.

Workers get Free admission, meal ticket, 1 T-Shirt per year, a maple item to take home.

Card transactions must be at least \$15.

Barb noted that on average, we take in about \$1.50 for every person that comes into the fair.

Special note that Field Days is a week earlier than normal – July 29 thru August 2.

Round of applause given for Andrew who got married to Amanda Vincent a month ago.

Big E Report:

Mike Christian noted 2024 was a record year. Only 2 hours of rain in 17 days.

Only sold 4200 donuts, not a lot compared to the 2200 in Addison County.

Just let Mike know if you want to help make maple cream.

All syrup will be packaged at the same location this year instead of being packaged at several locations.

Coffee was a record. Speeder & Earl's coffee supplied a maple coffee. They sold it out twice.

Hoping to partner with someone to sell a maple flavored coffee to VMSMA members.

They also need more volunteers down there. You get about \$105 per day stipend plus a hotel room.

You will be very busy. Everyone loves to come & see the Maple building and the workers down there.

Search "What I ate at the Big E" on Tiktok. Everyone gave VT maple an 8, 9 or 10.

Going to have a banner this year so people can take a picture in front of it.

Sold 20,000 cones of maple cream at \$2 each.

1300 lbs of cream so far. Need to have another 850 in containers, but waiting closer to the Big E for that.

Grossed \$252,000. State takes 15% of that.

This years Big E starts Sept. 12, goes to the 29th.

VMSMA Report:

The sugar house certification is moving forward. Money is available to help you get your sugarhouse certified.

If you would like to sign up for certification, please contact the State Association.

Last directors meeting was at the Proctor Research center. Hoping to move the meeting around the state.

The State is still requesting \$4300 from Addison County to upgrade the sap and syrup hydrometer test kits. All of the current kits are in Northern Vermont. Discussion on calibration of refractometers.

A new set of rules coming out for the contests.

Syrup to be judged here at the fair can be tested by the person dropping it off using a hydrometer and color test kit. You can then adjust which class you want your syrup to be judged in.

Old Business – none

New Business -

Addison County Fair has a capital campaign going on.

The plan on putting up a building for the show tent. Currently costs them \$12,000 each year to rent the tent.

State regulated storm runoff project - Fairs need to also have mitigation for this. Initial estimate for this project was a half-million dollars. There is grant money out there, but not sure of the availability of getting the funds. Rutland and Champlain Valley are also having to work on this. They have so far raised \$100,000, but want to raise a total of \$500,000.

Our directors voted to donate \$2,500 at their January meeting, and challenge the Lions to match a \$10,000 donation. We have since found out the Lions club has already donated that \$10,000. We did not feel we could donate more without coming to a larger part of the membership.

Discussion on spreading the donation over a few years. Claude Rainville noted we have donated in the past to the Entrance building, Paquette building, and the Public Safety building.

Motion made by Rich Warren to donate an additional \$7,500 this year. Motion seconded. Moe mentioned we could take \$3,100 out of the Blake Roy fund toward it, (and work on sorting out the fund with Rutland.)

We would wait until after the fair to write them a check. Motion carried.

Moe discussed making a larger number of shakes at a time. We could get a commercial maker that can make a few gallons at a time. Something to think about for the future years.

Election of Officers:

Mike Christian presented the slate of officers for the 25-26 year.

President, Moe Rheaume

Vice President, Mike Christian

Secretary, Brad Clark

Treasurer, Barb Rainville

Directors for 3 years each Steve Willsey, Don Gale (replacing Dave Folino). Alternate for 1 year Jim Rowe.

State Directors for 1 year - Mike Christian, Alternate - Kenn Hastings. Second alternate is Jim Rowe.

Jim Rowe moved to elect the slate as presented, seconded. Moe thanked all of the directors for their involvement. Motion passed.

Barb Rainville mentioned we have not added a name to the Addison County Sugarmakers Hall of Fame for a while. Maybe we can have people think about it and propose names during Field Days to be added. These are people who have done a lot for the organization. Andrew read off the names currently on the list. Brad will send it out, asking people if they think there are other deserving people to make the nomination.

Jim Rowe made the motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:39pm.

Respectfully submitted
Bradley Clark, Secretary