

## OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of 2/6/20, Annual Meeting

Members Present: Jim Quarella, Don Romanini, George Kelly, Melissa Volin, Julianne Donini, Mike Spadea, Mandi Cassidy, Mike Bonino, Bernard Tkaczynski, Tedd & Jenn Marr, Brendan Boyle, Wayne Corsiglia, Joe Procopio, Dan Martin

The meeting was held at Bellview Winery and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Jim Quarella. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Quarella delivered a brief financial report. The organization currently has \$25,842 in its checking account; membership dues paid by credit card are being collected through Stripe, which is working well. Dues should be paid by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Karen will send out invoices to those members who have not paid to date.

**Election:** Don reported that there are three positions to be filled on the OCPVA board. Three members have expressed an interest in serving: Jim Quarella, Julianne Donini, and Joe Procopio. Don asked for a voice vote to approve candidates; they were unanimously approved.

**Dept of Ag Convention:** Jim told the members that he attended the NJ Agriculture convention in Atlantic City, and mentioned that Mandi spoke on one of the panels. He said that the Jersey Fresh Program was being highlighted at the meeting. Jim encouraged OCPVA members to consider joining; it is only \$30 a year, and members can use the Jersey Fresh logo in promotional materials. There is even a tag line "Jersey Wines From Jersey Wines" that could be useful in marketing efforts.

**Grants:** Jim asked members for suggestions for projects for grant applications. Some suggestions were: a redo of the website to make it mobile friendly; spotted lantern fly research; marketing Coeur d'Est. Mandi pointed out that the deadline for applications for value added grants (which require a match) is March 1.

**Spotted Lantern Fly:** Members discussed the spotted lantern fly (SLF) problem. There are over 70 host plants for SLF, black walnut and tree of heaven trees are most prevalent in the OCP. Someone suggested having the Rutgers expert, Anne Nielson, speak at the next OCPVA meeting.

**Coeur d'Est Tasting:** The idea of having a Coeur d'Est tasting in conjunction with the American Wine Society Chapters in the area was brought up. The Coeur d'Est committee was asked to reach out to Gary Pavlas to explore the idea.

**Italian Varieties:** There will be a talk at Grape Expectations about the new Italian varieties being developed. When asked if they had been named, Don reported that he had been in touch with the Italians, who said they are "working on it". Jim told members to contact Double A Vineyards directly if they are interested in purchasing vines for the coming season.

**Book Sales:** Wine Grape Varieties for NJ is available for purchase on the website. There is a member discount available.

**Other Business:** Brendan asked if there was a sustainability standard for vineyards in NJ. There is none for NJ, but the Finger Lakes have established one. Mike said he would like to learn more; Jim said there would be a day long program scheduled on the issue; members will be notified about date and time.

Joe asked if there was any interest in creating a coop for smaller growers for purchasing items like barrels, wire, etc. or for sharing in the cost of purchasing or rental of equipment. Don said that he thought that would be a good topic for discussion on the OCPVA forum, and that he would email members to start a thread.

Tedd asked about the online course for spraying gramoxone. Some of the members had taken the course, and said that it was helpful. Jim offered to find a link to the course and the respirator needed for spraying and send them to members. See links, below.

Joe updated members on the Instagram account he created; he said that he has been posting items regularly and encouraged other members to do so at #outercoastalplain. He said he would do a posting about joining the OCPVA.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Gramoxone training: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/paraquat-dichloride-training-certified-applicators>

Respirator Health test link <https://www.respexam.com/>