

**Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association**  
**Minutes of First Quarter 2017 meeting – 2-23-17 (Annual Meeting)**

The meeting was held at Bellview Winery and called to order at 6 PM by Jim Quarella. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the treasurer's report given by Dave Davis. The Association has approximately \$21,345 as an adjusted balance in its account. Of that approximately \$15,000 is in general funds not restricted by grant requirements.

**Board Elections.** Board Elections were held for 4 terms up for vacancy. The seats are those occupied by Larry Coia, Dante Romanini, Larry Sharrott and Bill Heritage. Larry Coia has expressed an desire to resign from the Board and become a emeritus member which the Association agreed to. Todd Wuerker has agreed to be considered for Larry's seat. Elections were held with no other nominations and Todd, Dante Romanini, Larry Sharrott and Bill Heritage were all elected unanimously. These terms will expire in 2019.

**Farm Bureau.** Pete Bylone, a representative of the New Jersey Farm Bureau, was introduced to the membership. Pete explained what the Farm Bureau does and urged all members to join the group as it provides valuable resources to farmers. He will report back to the Bureau on the activities of the Association. He may be contacted at: [pbylone@ivyacres.com](mailto:pbylone@ivyacres.com)

**Italian Varieties.** Dan Ward, Don Romanini and Jim Quarella gave the association members an update on the status of the Italian varieties that the association has imported. The varieties consist of 2 reds and 1 white which have successfully passed through 3-4 years of quarantine at Foundation Plant Services. The varieties are now being grown at RAREC and cuttings have been taken and forwarded to Double A Nursery in Fredonia NY. The association has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Double A under which they will propagate these varieties for commercial distribution. Currently the OCPVA is the only entity authorized by the producer of these varieties in Italy (Foundation Edmund Mach and Dr. Marco Stefanini) to distribute these vines in the US. The association is hoping to negotiate a formal agreement with the Italians to have the exclusive rights in the US. If this is accomplished it will provide the association members with unique access to these vines and could be a potential source of income for the association.

The vines are currently unnamed but have received excellent reviews in Italy for their viticultural characteristics and the quality of their wine. The association has been in the forefront of promoting these varieties which hopefully will bring recognition to the OCP on a national basis. One of the reds, currently only known as F1P9, has been particularly well received and is the subject of significant interest in Italy. The white, which is an aromatic variety, has also produced excellent wine. The association will attempt to obtain samples of the wines made from them for association members to taste in the near future. It is also hoped that by next year some grafted vines will be available for planting by members on a trial basis but that full production of the vines is still a couple of years away.

**Crop Insurance.** There was a short discussion about crop insurance and Jim Quarella explained briefly that anyone seeking insurance for grapes had to take action on their own since there was not organized program in place to do it collectively.

**New Meeting Dates.** There was also discussion regarding the Association's current schedule of meeting dates. Several members felt that the Monday meeting dates were difficult to attend. As a result the members voted to change the regular meeting dates to Thursday. The meetings will still be held in the second month of each quarter ( February, May, August and November) but on the first Thursday of each. Thus the new meeting dates for 2017 are: May 4, August 3 and November 2. The members also discussed possibly arranging for electronic participation at the meetings and will look into how to do that.

Also the association will look into rotating the meetings among the various member's locations and also consider holding outdoor meetings during the growing season.

**Committees.** A discussion of the committees was held and the members were informed that the Board has determined to concentrate on 4 committees in order to be more productive. They are the Coeur d'Est Committee, Italian Varieties Committee, the Membership Committee and a new committee called the "Varieties Committee" which will be tasked with looking into new and existing varieties that may be suitable to grow in the OCP. An email will be sent to all members to urge the to commit to joining one of the committees. Each committee will be asked to present a report at each quarterly meeting in order to stay active.

The next meeting of the Association (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter) will be held on Thursday May 4, 2017 at 6PM. The location will announced in the future.