**OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of 2-15-22 Annual Meeting**

Members Present: Jim Quarella, Don Romanini, George Kelly, Jules Donnini, Mark Hernandez, Tom & Heather Martin, Bernard Tkaczynski, Dan Ward, Mike Spadea, Joe Procopio, Larry Coia, Jules Donnini, Gar Simers, Larry Sharrott, and Karen Talarico, Administrator

The meeting was at Bellview Winery and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Jim Quarella. Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting; the motion was made and approved.

**Financial Report:** Jules reported that OCPVA has $37,465 in its account. All grant monies have been received and the web designer has been paid in full. Our only outstanding bill is for $972 to Double A for vines they are producing.

**Election:** Three seats on the board of trustees are up. Jules, Dustin, Joe and Bernard have volunteered for the seats. Karen will send out an email for the vote.

**Italian Vines:** Mark collected budwood and sent it to Double A. He reported that we will have more than enough to cover orders for 2023. They are grafting on 10114 rootstock. Jim told the members that he had presented a webinar on San Marco. The name for the Italian varieties were submitted to TTB; approvals are in process. Larry C said that vines are going out to 5 vineyards, pursuant to the WIC grant we received. Don is writing an article about the Italian varieties for submission to Grapevine magazine and will pitch to Edible Jersey as well.

**Frank Salek Lecture:** Still need to schedule a date for this lecture. Larry C suggested grafting should be the topic since this was a great interest of Frank’s. He will ask Dennis Rak from Double A Vineyards to deliver the lecture.

**Grape Expectations:** Dan Ward reported that the event will be a lot more New Jersey focused this year. The president of Rutgers will attend, as will several Rutgers professors. Pesticide credits will be available for attendees. It will be held March 5th at Forsgate. Jim would like to set up a table for
OCPVA; he will make the arrangements. Karen will give Jim supplies for the table.

**Sounds Better:** Dan told the members about an article called “Sounds Better: Potential Implications of Obscure American Viticultural Areas to Consumers”. This was a case study of Autumn Road in Pilesgrove. The study highlights the impact of the OCP AVA, and how consumers are willing to pay a premium of up to $4 per bottle for wines that are grown in the OCP and labeled with that information. Dan pointed out that this information is important for the long term growth of the COP and validates the establishment of the OCP AVA.

**SCBG Grant Seminar:** Dan said that Rutgers is still under covid restrictions regarding group meetings, so the proposed date for the grant seminar will be postponed. The NJ Grape Varieties book must be updated and reprinted before the seminar. Dan also reported that Rutgers is developing a grape and wine making certificate.

**Coeur d’Est:** Autumn Lake released one this year; Cedar Rose is planning to make it as well. Larry S will draft a letter to all members encouraging them to make the blend and reminding them there is no longer a fee to do so, and Karen will distribute to members.

**Sustainability:** The group discussed sustainable growing practices, and Gar asked if there was some kind of certification available. There is none currently in NJ. Dan pointed out that Long Island had established a program, and that members could look to that for some guidelines.

A further discussion about spotted lantern fly issues took place. Eggs and nymphs don’t damage grape vines, only adults. Recommendation is to wait until they are adults to spray to kill them in the fall. Pathfinder is a product with petroleum distillate oil in it. It can be sprayed on non agricultural areas only, and is effective on tree of heaven.