

**OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes – 2-26-26**

The quarterly meeting of the OCPVA was held at Autumn Lake Winery on Thursday, February 26th at 6pm. Board Chairperson Jim Quarella called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm, and the minutes of the December 2025 meeting were approved and accepted.

**Treasurer's report:**

Kelly informed the members of the current bank account balances:

Primary Checking: \$2662.85

Money Market Savings: \$30,901.77

Total: \$33,564.62

**Board Elections 2026:**

Jim went over the board members who have been nominated for a new term. Joe Procopio, Jules Donnini, Mark Hernandez and Maddy Cozine (has been nominated as associate member) to the board. He asked if there were any nominations on the floor, which there were none.

Motion to close nominations and 2<sup>nd</sup> by W.Corsiglia. the Secretary will cast the ballot.

Welcome new and old board members.

**Vote Tally By-Law Change**

Proposed allowing vineyards in NJ that meet the criteria to become full membership. Till now your vineyard had to be in the Outer Coastal Plain AVA. The OCPVA thought this could be an opportunity to get some participation from other vineyards within the state and more energy coming into our organization. They must meet the criteria stated in the by-laws and must be approved by the membership.

**Vote Tally:**

(25) Eligible Members who could vote. (20 Total Votes) (17)-YES and (3) NO

The bylaw changes have passed, and updates will be made to the by-laws.

**Joel Viereck- State Board of Agriculture / Director on the Farm Credit Board**

**State Board of Agriculture:**

Agritourism Grants- Very robust number of applicants (445) requesting over \$30 million in funds. Although there was only \$5million to give out this time, make sure to apply again if you do not get it this round because the fund will be replenished since there was such a good response in application. Results will hopefully be out in April.

Please make sure when grants are out to let others in the community know about the opportunity to apply.

### Delegates to State Convention:

Hemant is facilitating it on behalf of Rutgers. It's an important process to select the state board members. The main thing is to get the delegates to show up, listen to what they have to say and give their input. This year so far, Steve Levy represents the fruit industry and Dale Parsons on the seafood side. Reach out to Hemant with any questions. The next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup> - Zoom.

Farm Credit: Anyone who has any questions or concerns please reach out to Joel he is happy to help pass information along if you feel you are not getting the attention needed. Record back to the members of \$145million. If you haven't gotten that please reach out, they should have landed by now.

In-Person Spring Meetings in Saugerties, New York which is a bit of a drive about 3 hours.

Jim asked if the Tourist Grant is a matching fund grant. Joel explained no, it is a straight fund grant.

### Inaugural Viticulturist Philosophy Speaker

#### Madeleine (Maddy) Cozine of Working Dog Winery

Vineyard Manager at Working Dog has been there since 2020, before that was with Mount Salem Vineyards. She have a chemistry degree and taught Chemistry and Food Science for a long time. Scientific approach to things.

#### Philosophy: We are caretakers of the land/vineyard.

- How do we get old vines in the mid-Atlantic? How do we maximize the commercial life of our vineyards? What makes old vines special?
- How do we get there: Start with clean stock, good site, good spray program, good canopy management and healthy soils. Establish a good root system on young vines before cropping.
- Trunk Disease Prevention
- What is sap flow pruning? (often associated with the Simonit & Sirch Method)  
\*\*\* a copy of the handout is available\*\*\*

Thank you Maddy!

**Presentation: Aimee Bentley, CCA Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture 2001**

Works as a crop consultant for Nutrien Ag Solutions in Bridgeton, NJ focusing on specialty crops such as vineyards, peaches, blueberries and vegetables.

**Topic:** Incorporating water term biopesticides into a conventional program, products made from bacteria. Work on mixing safer biopesticides with other conventional products.

**Some Products Discussed:**

**Double Nickel-** Bacillus Strain

**Lifeguard-** Bacillus Strain

Shared trials on the products (Michigan State) and fielded questions from the group.

Very informative presentation.

**Megan Hernandez – Social Media Update:**

Megan recently started highlighting some of the locations within the OCPVA and encouraged everyone to reach out to her by email at [megan@autumnlakewinery.com](mailto:megan@autumnlakewinery.com) if you have an event or anything going on that we can highlight on social media. So far Megan has been to a handful of vineyards/wineries and wants to make sure everyone is included.

**Hemant- Upcoming Educational Events:**

Hemant discussed the details of the following events:

**Great Expectations:** Forsgate Country Club - March 12, 2026

**Twilight Meeting-**May 20<sup>th</sup> at Saddlehill Winery, Voorhees, NJ

**Rutgers New Facility Members/ Grants**

Dan Ward announced a new facility member Nancy Shamar Extension Special in Plant Pathology specific responsibility for grapes. She wants to have the ability to conduct spray trials and different types of research she is working on so she would like more vineyards at RAREC.

Rutgers is glad to have her.

Jim asked about grants and Dan recommends “in kind support”. Decide whether it’s a one-time venture or something for the future. He is happy to work with us once we decide what type of grant we are pursuing.

**Library Wines-Tasting and Discussion:**

Thank you to the members who shared their Library wines and sharing details on the making of their specific wine.

**Autumn Lake Winery**

Cagey NV (Cab Franc/Chambourcin Blend) 2019  
Cabernet Sauvignon 2016

**Auburn Road Vineyard & Winery**

NJ Grown Cabernet Sauvignon 2004  
2009 Classico (Sangiovese/Cabernet)

**Bellview Winery**

2013 Cabernet Franc  
2012 Chambourcin

**Working Dog Winery**

2016 Syrah

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm