



MAINE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SOCIETY

MINUTES

2015 Annual Meeting of Members

Tuesday, January 13, 2014; Augusta, Maine; 9:30 – 12:00 AM

Attendance

- Nanne Kennedy
- Mark Hews
- Dick Brzozowski
- Justin Jamison
- Molly Clark
- Tristan Noyes
- Ralph Turner
- Galen Young
- Penny Jordan
- Stuart Smith
- Tony Kieffer
- Tom Atwell
- David Bell

Welcome

President Nanne Kennedy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2013 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 2014 annual meeting were distributed before the meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

The following report was presented to the membership.

2014 was a good year for MESAS. We hired Mark Hews as our Executive Director. The Board held three face to face meetings and one teleconference. The Executive Board held 6 teleconferences. Meeting minutes are available upon request.

At the 2014 Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee recommended, and the Members elected, Ron Poitras and Brendan McQuillan as new Board members and reappointed Nanne Kennedy, Penny Jordan, and Ellen Mallory for three year terms. Unfortunately, Ron

had to resign later in the year due to health issues. Officers elected were Nanne Kennedy as President, Penny Jordan as Vice President, and Bill Eldridge as Secretary/Treasurer. Again, we had a turn over mid-way through the year with Penny Jordan stepping down from the board due to work issues. Molly Clark was appointed to fill the Vice President position until the next Annual meeting.

The two major projects; More Maine Meat and Sustainable Year Round Agriculture gained momentum in 2014 with the Working Group for More Maine Meat becoming active, and funding from MTI in the amount of \$497,280 securing the demonstration phase for Year Round Agriculture. We also explored projects for farmer leadership development and developing a AmeriCorps service project with the Maine Conservation Corp.

Other grants received included an operations grant from the Betterment Fund and a grant from the Board Reach Fund for More Maine Meat project work in Aroostook County.

The Society closed out the Horizon Grant which helped complete the Processor and Producer surveys for More Maine Meat. And we closed out the New England Beef To Institution project with a final report from Rick Kersbergen.

Overall financials are:

Total Income	\$72,076.56
Total Expenses	\$79,888.04
Net Income	\$-7,745.48

The above reflects income earned from the grants received and closing out previous grants. It also reflects private donations and in-kind contributions. Our account balances, as of December 31st, 2014, are:

Checking account:	\$135,819.00
Savings account:	\$4,381.26

In terms of Membership, as of December 31st, 2014, our members list included

126 Farmer members (56% of total)
100 Support members (44% of total)

The Society is well poised to expand again in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Eldridge
Secretary/Treasurer

President's Report

A written report was provided. Nanne provided a verbal addition to the written report.

Election of Board Members

Molly reported for the Nominating Committee. The following new Board members are being nominated for one year terms.

- Tristan Noyes, GrowMaine, LLC
- Brenna Chase, Turner Farm

It was moved by Nanne and seconded by Dick to accept the slate as presented. There were no more nominations from the floor. The motion passed.

Molly reported on the Slate of Officers for 2015. The following slate is being proposed.

Nanne Kennedy, President
Molly Clark, Vice President
Bill Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

It was moved by Ellen and seconded by Dick to accept the slate as presented. There were no more nominations from the floor. The motion passed.

Other Business

Dave Bell of the Board of Agriculture made a presentation to the annual meeting. After the presentation there was a brief period of questions and answers.

Tony Kieffer of MaineAsia gave an update on the Year Round Agriculture Project. The group asked questions and had a discussion about the project.

There was no other business brought before the annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 AM.

**Maine Sustainable Agriculture Society
President's Report
January 13, 2015**

On behalf of the Board of Directors for MESAS, I am happy to report that 2014 was a very productive year for our Organization. Progress was made on both our More Maine Meat and Sustainable Year Round Agriculture Projects as well as new initiatives dealing with farmer leadership development and a partnership with the Maine Conservation Corp around a new AmeriCorps program for farm conservation initiatives. To summarize:

General Operations

- The MESAS Website was transferred and updated to a new platform. It is poised to serve as a practical information resource for members and the general public.
- Launched an e-newsletter this year to keep members informed of Society activities.
- Participated in a number of field days and conferences, spreading the word of MESAS.
- The Board met three times face to face and held 3 teleconferences.
- Became a full member of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, which will help leverage federal dollars for More Maine Meat and other initiatives.
- MESAS has a voice on the Maine Food Strategy and with the New England Farmers Union which helps keep our message in other arenas.

Fund Raising

Fundraising has focused on three areas: sponsorships, a general operations proposal, and our two projects More Maine Meat and Sustainable Year Round Agriculture.

Sponsorships:

1. Received sponsorships from two donors.
2. Received general donations from a dozen individuals.

Operations Proposal:

1. Distributed proposals for operational support to additional funders. Requests now total \$150,000.
2. Successfully received a \$10,000 grant from the Betterment fund for three years of operations support.

New Initiatives

1. Worked with Maine Conservation Corps on an agriculture proposal for AmeriCorp and Vista resources to work with farmers in Maine.
2. Worked on a concept for expanding leadership development for farmers, negotiating the assumption of the Sustainable Food Systems Leadership Institute from the Maine

Association of Nonprofits, and building a fund to pay farmers to attend and participate in food system related meetings and events.

Year Round Agriculture:

1. Received the first installment of \$176,553.70 from MTI for phase I and II of the project. Total project funding is \$497,280.
2. Developed contracts and scopes of work for the first level of consultants to the project.
3. Prepared a high level cluster initiative plan and supporting documents to guide our management of the project for the next two and one half years.
4. Established the Steering Committee for the project.

More Maine Meat:

1. Funding from Broad Reach for \$10,000 was secured to help with part of the project in Aroostook County.
2. Completed and distributed a producer and processor survey and final reports.
3. Completed the New England Beef to Institution project.
4. Reactivated the Working Group and help a meeting on September 30th.
5. Focused on six strategies to help advance the project.