

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAR 5, 2024 AT GASPEREAU BAPTIST CHURCH, 2838 GREENFIELD RD

Members in Attendance:

Roseline Godin, Gary & Pat Constantine, David Green, Peter Jackson, Steve & Karen Ells, Donna Paisley, Alban Walsh, Derek Guy, Stephen Cochrane, Cameron Broome and Peter Jucker.

Opening & Welcome:

Vice President Roseline opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Peter Jackson moved and Gary seconded that the Minutes from Feb. 12 be approved as written.

Wine Doctor:

Peter Jackson brought a 2018 Seval, grapes from Kit Childs vineyard. Apparently it was extremely acidic early on, but has not been checked in a few years. Today it was slightly oxidized but overall pretty nice. A vast improvement, thanks to putting it down in the cellar.

The second entry was a wine that came to see the Doctor for the third time this year – Pat and Gary's 2023 l'Acadie. We heard that the wine had problems, but dumping 4 carboys was simply not what the Constantines were going to do. Instead, they took a sample to winemaker Mike Mainguy. He told them the only option was to mask the taste. Today's bottle was a sample of each of the 4 carboys that have been treated with peppercorns in one case, different amounts of oak in the other 3. Conclusion: it is getting better.

Correspondence:

Gary received an email from an unknown man in Halifax who had come across a camera resting in the 'lost & found' box at the Museum of the Atlantic since 2011. Through some clever sleuthing, the man found a photo showing two chaps proudly holding a AWC Certificate naming them Bob McDiarmid and Jim Ferguson. Not sure of the ending yet, Gary will stay on it. In any case, an amazing story. Peter Jucker suggested AVV to follow-up and express our appreciation to the individual.

Business Arising:

We understand that Brian McKibbin has, or is, in the process of contacting/confirming 6 Judges for the Provincial competition.

New Business:

Alban has a couple dozen Grolsch bottles available to anyone interested.

Adjourn Business Meeting:

Moved by Peter Jackson, seconded by Karen.

Technical Session:

Steve Ells is the President of the N.S. Grape Growers Association and we are very fortunate he is also a member of our Club.

In tonight's presentation, Steve is bringing us up to date on what the Polar Vortex of February 3 and 4, 2023 has done to the NS wine industry. Temperatures of minus 25 to 27 were reported in many locations in the Province that night. What made matters worse, for not only the grape vines but also peach and other fruit trees, was that this cold snap was preceded by the warmest January in 95 years.

The loss of primary buds on most vinifera became obvious very soon and Steve told us he checked and kept immaculate records of the damage found in all varieties in dozens of blocks within his vineyard. Based on accounts like this the Provincial Government came through with a \$15 million fund to help the industry. As to what can be expected for 2024: the hybrids will likely be okay. The vinifera break down in three groups. Approximately one-third will be replanted, one-third is expected to be back in two to three years, and the remaining will likely have some crop.

Steve told us that keeping and protecting suckers is much preferred to replanting but pruning will be much more time consuming.

Thank you Steve for the very informative presentation.

Non-Technical Session:

Dave Green – very nice, thank you.

Next Meeting:

April 2, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Peter and Frances.