

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2025 AT GASPEREAU BAPTIST CHURCH, 2838 GREENFIELD RD

Members in Attendance:

Brian McKibbin, Gary & Pat Constantine, David Green, Peter Jackson, Karen Ells, Roseline Godin-Cochrane, Stephen Cochrane, Alban Walsh, Derrick Guy and Peter Jucker

Opening & Welcome:

Brian welcomed everyone at 6:57 pm, our first meeting of 2025.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The Minutes from the Nov. 5, 2024, meeting were approved as written.

Wine Doctor:

The first wine was entered by Karen, a 2022 l'Acadie. Steve had made 3 carboys, one of them was found badly off colour. It had been in the carboy for about a year when Steve treated it with polycel, a product from Scott Laboratories formulated to correct pinking or browning of wine. He then racked it two more times before bottling. This clearly worked. It looked and tasted like a good l'Acadie.

The second was a 2016 Pinot Noir made by Brian from grapes grown in Peter Jackson's vineyard. It was lacking the Pinot fruit and also had quite a deep red color. Consensus was: perhaps passed its prime.

The last, another Pinot Noir, and also from Peter Jackson's vineyard made by Peter in 2021. This was much more like a Pinot. Nice nose, good color and taste.

Correspondence:

None.

Business Arising:

Brian referred to the line in the November Minutes talking about the 2025 Provincial Competition. He has been talking with Bill Moore at the Christmas Party and there is informal agreement that the AWNS Competition would take place in Halifax, run by HDWC, with help from AVV. Brian will ask Bill Moore to formally commit. The majority of the judges have recently come from the city, and they have shown great enthusiasm.

New Business:

Peter Jucker was asking the President what kind of response he got to his appeal that was sent to all Club members in November 2024. There have been some positive developments. Peter Jackson has offered to become President. Bob MacDiarmid is honored to remain as a member at large. Alex Jurbala has offered to become Treasurer. As for the other positions on the Executive, the following had previously indicated to stay for another term.

VP	Roseline Godin Cochrane
Secretary	Peter Jucker
Mbr at Large	Karen Ells
Webmaster	Gary Constantine

Treasurer's Report:

Donna Paisley's report will also be attached. (See DOC 1)

President's Report:

Brian read his report and it will be attached to these minutes (See DOC 2)

Election of Officers:

The election process was a done deal. See New Business, but here for the record:

President: Peter Jackson

Past President: Brian McKibbin

Secretary: Peter Jucker

Treasurer: Alex Jurbala

Webmaster: Gary Constatine

Member at Large: Kareen Ells

Member at Large: Bob MacDiarmid

Adjourn Business Meeting. Moved by Peter Jucker, seconded by Peter Jackson.

Technical Session:

Today's topic is perfectly geared to at least two of our Club members that regularly have a last alcoholic drink at New Year's Eve and then non-alcoholic beverages for the next month and a half.

We were tasting two wines under Loblaws PC brand. PC Sauvignon Blanc and PC Rose.

These sell for \$8.50, sometimes a dollar less, at Atlantic Superstore and Carl's Independent.

Both these wines are imported from Belgium, a place much better known as a beer nation.

The taste comes really close to wine, even more so when made into a spritzer by adding club soda. **Update:** The above sentence was how the secretary thought the samples tasted. However, a day later, when comparing notes with 3 of our Club members at a social gathering, he learned how they judged the quality of the 2 beverages. The rose was not too bad, the white too sweet and altogether terrible.

Both are actually made from fermented wine, then de-alcoholized (a highly elaborate process). Interesting that the Rose originated as a Shiraz.

Non Technical Session:

Reid's smoked ham, brown sugar crusted and baked by Frances.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Peter and Frances

ADDENDUM: Letter from new AVV president. (See DOC 3)

DOC 1

Annapolis Valley Vintners
Financial Statement

2024

BALANCE at 1st day of January 2024		3,021.90
INCOME		
Yearly Membership Dues	\$ 440.00	22 @ \$20 (+2 prepaid)
AWNS bank account closed & funds deposited	\$ 230.26	
Bank Interest	18.10	
Provincial Competition	\$ 435.00	
National Competition	\$ 1,740.00	
BB Vineyard Tour	220.00	
TOTAL Income		\$ 3,083.36

EXPENSES

Meeting & Party Expenses	183.21	
Meeting Room Rental \$30 x 240.00 (Jan-Jun, Oct 7 & Nov)		
Internet Expense - Netfirm (2yr)& Everweb		
Provincial Competition Expenses	353.62	
National Competition Expenses	531.77	
BB Vineyard Tour Expenses	355.89	
TOTAL Expenses		1,664.49
SURPLUS 1 DEFICIT		1,418.87
Cash on hand	\$ 60.95	deposited Oct 5
BALANCE at 1st November 2024		4 440.77

NOTES

- Membership in AVV at 31st December 2024 24
- Prepaid Membership dues for 2025
- Meeting & Party Expenses include the purchase of wine for tasting, food and supplies for the parties and meetings in 2024
- Competition Expenses include lunch, supplies, & judges gifts

- AWNS bank account as of January 10th, 2024 balance \$230.26 transferred to AVV.

Account Closed Jan 1 opening balance \$230.12 + \$0.19 in interest = \$230.26

Respectfully submitted

Donna Paisley AW Treasurer

Date: 7 January 2025

Finally, a year to remember in the vineyard where we were blessed with perfect weather right through to harvest time. All in all, a collective sigh of relief after the catastrophic events of 2023, a year to forget.

COMPETITIONS:

- The AVV hosted the AWNS Provincial Competition on 8th June and later in the year, hosted the AWC National Competition on 21st Sept. Both events were held at Ellslea Vineyard thanks to the generosity of the owners, Steve and Karen Ells.
- Peter Jucker won the Grape Grower's award for his Red Non-Vinifera Blend in the AWNS Competition.
- Elayne Mott won the AWNS award for non-grape wine with her Black Cherries and Blackcurrant Blend in the AWNS Competition.
- Alban Walsh shared the Winery Association Award for Winemaker of the Year with Steve Ells in the AWNS Competition.
- Steve Ells also won the Ivan Herbert Hummingbird Hill Award for highest score by a Nova Scotia entrant in the AWC Competition.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

- This year we welcomed new members Cameron Broome and Angelina Frizzell.
- At our club meetings, we continued with our series of tasting events over the year. At the May meeting, and freshly returned from a couple of months in Portugal, I gave a talk about some of the wineries there that Suzanne and I visited together with a brief description of the 14 different wine regions of the country.
- On 17th July we held our first Alan Baker Vineyard Tour at Benjamin Bridge Winery. This was organized by Steve Ells, an AVV member but also Vineyard Manager at Benjamin Bridge. The club provided tastings at the winery and later snacks by the banks of the Gaspereau River which runs along the lower slopes of the vineyard. The weather co-operated for a very pleasant evening.
- The annual picnic was held on 7th Sept. at Kit Child's vineyard where we shared a pleasant afternoon with our friends from the HDWC.
- The annual Christmas Party on the afternoon of Sat. 7th Dec. took place at the President's house in Wolfville. A lot of members attended and brought with them a wide range of really great home-made wines.

The year also brought the sad passing of Art Ward. Art was an enthusiastic member of AVV who pushed the boundaries when it came to making non-grape wines. Our sympathies go out to his wife Karen and family. We will all miss Art.

This will be my last President's Report as I will be stepping down this year after 14 years as President. Our Treasurer, Donna Paisley, has resigned so next year will see some new faces on the executive. Meantime I wish to thank all members of this year's executive for their support: Roseline in her role as VP and her willingness to run the show in my absence; Peter Jucker for his fine reporting of our meetings; Donna for keeping her eye closely on our club finances; Gary for understanding the world of competitions and computers and Karen and Bob for their roles as Members at Large and offering helpful suggestions. And finally a thank-you to all members, I look forward to sharing the 2024 vintage with you in the coming months.

Brian McKibbin
President AVV

DOC 3

To all AVV members, past and present,

I am writing this to inform everyone that I have taken over the role of President of the club from Brian McKibbin. Brian has been the AVV President for the past 14 years and on behalf of the club I would like to thank him for his tireless leadership during that time. He has continued the excellence that the AVV founders envisioned and added his own style to the role. His wonderful guest speakers, fun wine tastings, unique summer outings, educational winery visits and professionally run local and national wine competitions are a testament to his commitment to the AVV and its members. Please take a moment when you next see Brian to shake his hand and thank him personally.

I would also like to thank Donna Paisley for her role as past treasurer of the club and all the work and dedication that she put into that position these past 6 years.

It is with pleasure that I thank Alex Jurbala for accepting the role as our new treasurer and the other board members who agreed to stay on in their present capacities. I look forward to continuing the fine example that has been set for me.

Peter Jackson
President