

Viticulture Advisory Committee Meeting

11/19/24

Minutes

1. Welcome: Steve Dutton
 - a. Meeting called to order at 3:05pm.
 - b. **Present:** John Azevedo, Bob Dempel, Joe Dutton, Steve Dutton, Nick Frey, Nicole Hayden Joan Patrick, Mark Sanchietti, Mel Sanchietti, Jim Young
 - c. **Absent:** John Balletto, Chris Bowland, Laura Breyer, Michael Sangiacomo, Brent Young, Karissa Kruse, Ryan Stapleton
 - d. **Staff:** Connor Murphy, Merilark Padgett-Johnson, Rachel Smith, Victor Tam, Janet Stribling
2. Approval of minutes:
 - a. Motion to approve minutes from 4/9/24 from Nick Frey, Second from Mel Sanchietti.
 - i. Motion approved.
3. SRJC and Ag/NR update: Victor Tam
 - a. Enrollment in the Ag and Natural Resource department is up 20%.
 - b. The district is only up about 7 or 8%, but classes at Schoen Farm are up 14%.
 - c. There are dual enrollment partnerships with local high schools to increase student engagement in pathways at SRJC.
 - d. Merilark Pagett is now the coordinator for both the Viticulture and Wine Studies programs.
 - e. Janet Stribling is the new administrative assistant for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Shone Farm.
4. Viticulture program update: Merilark Padgett
 - a. Viticulture enrollment is flat.
 - b. There is a lot of cross-disciplinary interest in the programs offered at Shone Farm, which may lead to growth in viticulture enrollment.
 - c. Students in biology are being steered by faculty towards viticulture, horticulture, or general agriculture.
5. Shone Farm Vineyard Harvest 2024 Summary: Mark Sanchietti
 - a. The vineyard had its biggest tonnage ever.
 - b. The gross was a new pinnacle for the vineyard
 - c. Block 2 has low vigor and is concerning.
 - d. They will put compost under the vine in block 2 to suppress weeds and revigorated it.
 - e. There is a nematode situation in block 2, and it may be necessary to stop farming it organically.
 - f. Block 1 and Block 7 were third year, first crop, and were big winners.
 - g. Block 8 is up in the air.

- h. Rombauer, a winery, was great to work with and showed interest in buying block 2.
 - i. Flowers renegotiated their contract for block 5, which was a big deal.
 - j. Block 8 was pulled early fallow and will be extended for 5 years.
 - k. Block 14 is a planting contract with Coppola, and they have done another finger design and rosé.
- 6. Winery Contracts Update: Sancheti Farming Contract:
 - a. The vineyard is in a strong position with open contracts.
 - b. Sanchiatti contract is up., Kate Jolley and Connor are working on a new contract. The contract has been renewed three or four times previously
 - c. They are waiting for a letter of support from the advisory.
 - d. The new contract will be approved at the December 13th Board Meeting.
- 7. Update on Well Project Shone Farm: Mark Sanchiatti and Connor Murphy
 - a. A 20 gallon a minute well was drilled last winter.
 - b. Rachel Smith got a grant to cover the cost of the well.
 - c. Mike Brockhoff is the electrical contractor.
 - d. They are in phase two of the project, which includes installing a 4,000-gallon storage tank, a booster pump, and power to the well.
 - e. The well is up and running.
 - f. They have upgraded some power at the vineyard yard.
 - g. They are working on a larger project to capture water off the buildings at Shone Farm.
 - h. They will have a bid walk for the well pump, booster pump, and tank before the end of December.
 - i. Rachel Smith is working on a grant to cover the cost of the project.
- 8. Potential Reservoir: Mark and Connor Murphy
 - a. There are erosion problems due to impermeable surfaces at Shone Farm
 - b. They met with RCD to discuss a potential solution.
 - c. They are working on a larger project to capture water off the buildings.
 - d. The recommendation from John is to build a six-acre foot pond to capture water.
 - e. The project is extremely expensive.
 - f. David Liebman will meet with RCD to discuss funding options.
 - g. They are working on a larger project to capture water off the buildings.
- 9. New Business: none
 - a. None.
- 10. Set date for Spring 2024 meeting
 - a. Tuesday, April 15th at 2:00pm at Gale Ann's Vineyard.
- 11. Meeting adjourns at 3:55pm.