

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2025 AT GASPEREAU BAPTIST CHURCH, 2838 GREENFIELD RD

Members in Attendance:

Peter Jackson, Steve & Karen Ells, Gary & Pat Constantine, Dave Green, Brian McKibbin, Brian Boutilier and Peter Jucker

Regrets: Roseline Godin-Cochrane & Stephen Cochrane

Opening & Welcome:

Our new President, Peter Jackson, opened the meeting at 6:59 pm

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Brian McKibbin moved that the Minutes of the January 7th meeting be approved. Seconded by Gary.

Wine Doctor:

Peter Jackson brought a 2024 blend of Geisenheim and l'Acadie. The grapes were organically grown and picked at 18.8 and 19.8 brix respectively. Fermentation was started with a yeast called VITILEVURE ELIXIR, said to be excellent at releasing bound varietal aromas resulting in well-balanced wines that are aromatically complex with a long finish. The wine has gone through malo. It will be cold stabilized next, which will bring down the acidity. Peter is planning to blend it with Chardonnay. We can hardly wait to taste the final product.

Brian Boutilier bought a bottle of 2021 Marquette. He has taken on Connie Bishop's vineyard in Greenwich many years ago and he makes a lot of wine every year. This one has started to oxidize and the verdict was that it will not get any better.

Correspondence:

Brian McKibbin has been in contact with HDWC President Bill Moore and we have an agreement that this year's Provincial Competition will take place in Dartmouth on June 21 & 22 under the auspices of HDWC. Alex Jurbala in the role of Chief Steward and Allan Jost in charge of I.T.

Peter Jackson was responding to an inquiry from Deborah Stuart from New Brunswick.

Business Arising:

There were questions from the floor about where and how to pay membership fee. This has been communicated by Gary on January 25, 2025 but here it is again. 2025 AVV membership fee is \$20/member. Our new Treasurer is Alex Jurbala. Payment via e-transfer to: treasurerAVV@gmail.com. Peter Jackson will also accept cash or cheques.

Gary reported on the recent difficulties he has accounted with the computer program he uses for AVV. It's "Life Time" has expired, so Gary made a motion that the webmaster be authorized to spend the \$100 to purchase another "Life Time" version of the program. Seconded by Peter Jackson.

Approved by all.

New Business:

Brian McKibbin raised an important aspect re finances and competitions. Now that HDWC is taking on the AWNS entry fees for this years Provincials will go to HDWC. The shipping costs for the

Nova Scotia wines to the National in BC will be born by AVV (because AVV benefitted financially from holding the Nationals in 2024).

We discussed possible themes for the March meeting and decided on: AVV members 2024 vintages, both white and reds. We will sample and bring winemaking notes for comparisons.

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

Technical Session:

The evaluation and aging potential of NS red wines made from hybrid grapes.

The President had a very busy day picking up wines from a number of AVV members as well as from commercial local wineries that were very happy to gift them to us for this special event. We owe them a big "Thank You"! 8 bottles were brown bagged and numbered and everyone had a battery of 8 glasses to deal with.

The tasting was open discussion amongst all of us going through the wines in numerical order, commenting on appearance, aroma and bouquet, taste, aftertaste and overall impression. The qualities varied and differed but there was only one that was faulty and was therefore not judged. I think there was a shared opinion that 2 Baco Noirs, a 2009 and 2010 from Blomidon Estate Winery would have topped the scoring. AVV member wines were a 2014 by Jackson/McKibbin a 2008 Lucie Kuhlmann by McKibbin and Jucker's 2015 Leon Millot. The oldest of the lot was a Marechal Foch 1999, the first release of Domaine de Grand Pre, and the youngest a 2017 Fauna from Lightfoot and Wolfville.

It was a great exercise. The Secretary felt badly about all the wine that ended up in the spittoons but we all had to drive home in cars.

Non Technical Session:

Karen & Steve Ells. The snacks went very well with the abundance of red wines. Thank you.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2025.

Minutes prepared by Peter and Frances