

VBA meeting notes

3/12

In attendance: Nina, Geoff, Hannah, Kara, Emma, Sean, Terry, Heather, Bob

Not in attendance : Joe

Motion, Geoff : motion to accept the meeting minutes for January.

Second, Nina

All in favor : unanimous

Any additions to the agenda?

None are brought forth

Legislative overview

Legislative session is coming up

We need to do lobbyist disclosure forms. Mutual fault between VBA and Necransen. These are mandatory disclosures and will need to be built into process each year. We were fined \$3000, Emma and Jessica were able to negotiate it down to \$1000. No fee associated with form submission, only for lack of submission.

PFAST : has pst in legislature, and is now going to
Emma had a call with G3, they are a pfas free can producer. They are a supplier out of the west coast and are opening an eastern location.

Regional meetings

Members did speak up. Proposed tax increase for low abv beer, this will seriously impact all brewers.

Bringing bills forward from membership : proposals by members are brought to the GAC and then the GAC will vet and bring it to the board for approval.

-#1 & #2. 1st & 3rd to operate a 2nd class license.

This is already happening. Conversation is around creating a streamlined manufacturing license that would incorporate 1st, 2nd, & 3rd for the malt manufacturing.

If this moves forward it would be smart for us to get together with spirits and vineous.

#3. Proposal for a clean draft lines mandate. VBA to support educating members on cleaning lines but not supportive of legislative mandate.

#4. Malt manufacturers can only send 12 cases direct to shipper per year.

-shipping for beer competitions.. Can we get a pallet together for member breweries to provide entry? Members do want to see more support for national beer competitions.

-talk to Sean Lawson for past group submission shipping.

-pull in allied partner for shipping or subsidize submissions for participating breweries

Financial.

See updated financial sheet.

Sponsorships.

We do have a bunch of in-kind sponsorships

Upstate elevate

Launching new products into the 21+ and would like to sample to

Q : is smoking allowed? A smoking area is provided

Q : do we want to add a limit

THC/CBD

Q : opens a larger question for the membership and the board at where we are at with the inclusion of THC/CBD.

There are legal restrictions on the TTB/Federal license

Q : how are they marketing the product?

Sponsorship amount to remain the same, \$2500.

Q : should we be considering a sponsorship for policy around cannabis products and the presence at our events?

There is a difference between a sponsor and a vendor.

CBD and THC licensing are different and dictate how those manufactures can mobilize.

Budget :

Sponsorships are on going. Emma feels our position will only improve and no worry.

Willis as an allied partner?

Tickets through Seven Days, great program that provides \$1 per ticket back to VBA.

Festival vendors : add grilled cheese vendor. Will be adding cold brew and Kombucha. Any BBQ? Bluebird? Mark's BBQ? Black diamond BBQ?

TASK - Emma to ask okto fellas for food truck contacts.

Need more Vermont breweries at the festival.

AT LEAST 10 MORE VT BREWERIES, by 3/22

Email to go out tomorrow

TASK - all board members to reach out to their buddy list

If board members are too busy, let Emma know.

New Brewster river spot - is not open yet. "Lot 6"

TASK - board members to sign up if they will be attending.

Beer competition at the Festival. People's choice award at the festival.

Fest goers do get excited about featured beers and beer line ups.

TASK - Emma to reach out Anne at Brocklebank of NANOFEST about their people's choice process.

Website :

Feedback - many adjustments for brewery information/updated listings.
Slow time of the year for the website. Will pick up for festival and conference

Conference.

Doubletree vs. Stowe

DT will be a better experience for participants and vendors. More space and connective spaces.

Will be a monday/tuesday event. This is also veterans day.

Motion. Nina - motion to approve the doubletree as the location.

Second. Terry

All in favor : unanimous

Sponsorship -

will be changing it around a bit

Lower the vendor booth cost to \$1200 and limit comp'd registrations to 1 per instead of 2

Non-profit exhibitor option

Same registration fees

Speaker proposal will go out after a contract is in place.

Evaluate comps and have more limits to comp's this year.

Malloy and crew will not be helping fill vendor spots but staff feel confident

Working with Emerson and Delaney.

QR for tipping beer service staff

Membership

Farm Road Brewing - hardship after Seth passes away, what can the VBA do support?

Members

We will send a formal letter to each unpaid member that if steps are not taken to come back in to good member standing. They will be removed from the VBA membership list.

Payment plan is an option and communication around

There has been member frustration with VBA involvement in brewer struggles.

Reach out to

Green empire

Hermit Thrush

Bear Naked

Lost Nation - kara has reached out, conversation on going

Not continuing membership - Farm Road and Fiddlehead

New member to join the VBA.

Red Leaf Brewing

Board to review materials provided.

Motion : Geoff : Motion to approve Red Leaf as member.

Second : Terry
All in favor : unanimous
Against : none
Abstain : none

Other potential members.
Full barrel coop - will be dissolving
Freak folk - Terry has reached out
Liam bru tasty - Terry has reached
Tropics - Terry reached out and not word back
Big tree - Terry to reach out
Mount Holly - to join in September, currently contract brewing

Valley Craft Ales - does not have a brew house, contract brewing

Hannah built and shared a licensing pathway. It is on the portal
Distribution? Can be added to the portal.

VBA updates
ED bonus goals for 2024
Motion : Nina motion to accept ED goals
Second : Geoff
All in favor : unanimous

Thank you for putting this together Kara. We will be doing an evaluation on ED performance. This is something we will commit to.

Discussion on structure
 Selection of board members
 Emma to self evaluate and provide context
 Evaluation forms or “open ear” to membership via the buddy system.
 Feedback from membership

Website

 Portal launched this morning, 3/12
 Hannah sets up primary and secondary account holders
 Used existing information from VBA memberships
 Portal is password protected and is not open to the public
 Resources - access to supporting documents and resources
 Will keep adding resources and sharing via email
 Events calendar(VBA related)
 Will be able to do event registration through calendar in future
 Events calendar(member events) - this does not exist in the website but does exist on the passport app.
 For sale listings section

Job board - **TASK** make job board open to the public for viewing
TASK - board members to push website/portal in buddy emails.
Future - members will be able to pay due online in future.

Vermont Beer Box - 3 Vermont beer industry starting a beer truck that drives through other states promoting and serving Vermont beer. They are working on licensing with DLL.

Q : how would they source the beer?

Gregory Dunklen - is looking to collaborate across the New England guilds. He is understanding that craft beer is shifting and wants to help active breweries develop their leadership for better business success. Funded through the university of NE.

Q : What is Gregory looking for?

We would like to know more about what the initiative actually is and how that translates to time invested by Emma.

The board would like to see a more formal presentation.

Health Care

No update, still waiting on information from Richard's group.

3/18 Email Vote

Emma - We have a new brewery application (wahoo!), The Tropic Brewing in Waterbury. Terry and I did a site visit this morning and their full application (letter, licenses, pictures, signed Code of Conduct) is attached below.

Can one of you make a motion, someone to second, and then all vote by **Monday April 22nd?**

Motion - Terry

2nd - Nina

All in favor - unanimous

