



BEER WORTH FINDING
**VERMONT BREWERS
ASSOCIATION**

VBA meeting notes | 10/28/24

Meeting called to order at 2:08 pm

In attendance :

Emma, Kara, Bob, Sean, Joe, Hannah, Heather

Not in attendance :

Terry, Geoff, Nina

Motion to accept September meeting minutes : Sean

Second ; Bob Grim

Motion passes with full yay.

VT CBC update.

Jump into budget for conference; review by Emma, see current agenda for numbers.

66 VBA members to participate

168 total registrations so far.

2 weeks out and expecting more last minute registrations.

Emma : Any feedback from industry folks?

Group : no negative feedback.

Bob; how are we doing on the industry side? Yeast company, Escarpment in Que?

Emma; they are not available, same days as the Quebec Brewers Conference.

Other ideas for companies to reach out to? Board members to think and contribute suggestions.

Send to Emma.

Other fundraising ideas

Holiday Market : Emma proposes to move to spring to give us more time to plan and make it worth brewery and participant time. Board agrees, better to have a well planned event.

Enthusiast members : restructure to create more passive income; Emma to execute.

Annual meeting 2024

Strategic survey

In past 2022; lengthy survey.

It is time to review with another strategic survey; shooting for spring 2025

2023 survey was vague for feedback. Talk about the importance of the survey at the conference and annual meeting. Send out after the meeting or give folks time to digest and participate.

Tied House discussion.

Drafted invite ; available in meeting documents. Introduce Tied House discussion and why it is coming up in conversation.

Emma needs a concise statement from the board about tied house.

Why do we want to change tied house; board member and general industry perspective?

How does this affect differently sized businesses?

How this can affect the industry as a whole?

Collecting more information from our membership about moving in this way

Have Jessica speak on Tied house; Primer; establishment and current state

Consider the history and founding of the VBA and

Survey prior to annual meeting is around DLL questions

Add a question or two to membership about Tied house and their understanding or applicability to their brewery.

Starting of wording for announcement/call to engage.

This is a topic that the VBA Board would like to explore. The VBA was founded on the protective principles based in Tied House Law in 1988, association founded in 1995. Do these principles still apply in today's industry?

Break out discussions around Tied house; make sure we have enough space for productive conversations for groups.

Questions and structure for Tied House break out group

After thirty years; changing industry; acknowledgement of history

Taking the pulse as to where we are and what members want.

What is important to breweries right now?

Future vision; what would you like to see happen within our industry?

Current concerns?

Tied House;

Has been coming up in conversation in the last 2 years; having conversation and re-evaluating

Examples of other suppliers that have changed

Tied houses are legal in more states than not. Vermont is one of the last states to hold onto this law.

What is the reality of brewers in VT looking to open multiple locations?

Need

Statement about board & tied house conversation

How to structure the conversation

-break into parts

Distribution

Consumer access

Future Vision

Risks

Board members to meet with Jessica regarding Tied house. Bring our questions to make sure we are all on the same page and fully understanding the scope of changing the law.

Commemorate Bill Mares! Dedication and opportunity for folks to speak at the VBA annual meeting.

Overview of annual meeting: see agenda

One board member application for vote.

Multiple other persons are interested but applications not submitted

Motion to adjourn ; Bob

Second ; Joe

All in favor ; all yays