

United Suffolk Sheep Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 29-30, 2022

October 29 Attendance: President Greg Ahart, Vice President Brenda Reau, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Lloyd McCabe, Jeremy Geske, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Bill Zwyers and Tom Begg. Board members absent: Tom Burke and Matt Wolf. Additionally present for the meeting was Jim VanDyke and Randy Hodges.

President Ahart called the meeting to order at 4:31pm.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Carol Heupel made motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported there is nothing new to report since the last meeting. There was a recent conversation with Karissa Issacs from Superior Farms on possibility of collaboration between the USSA and the Sheep Discovery Center on projects using registered Suffolks.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$244,446 with a cash balance is \$4,311.

There was no Ambassador, Junior, or Foundation report.

Committees

Jeremy Geske, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, referred to the list of committees and outlined tasks. Committee chairs were assigned; Digital Suffolk, Diane Russell; Breed Improvement, Lloyd McCabe; Strategic Planning, Jeremy Geske; Budget, Carol; Education, Bill Zwyers & Dennis Sorensen; Marketing & Research, Brenda Reau; and Events, Tom Begg. For those individuals who were present, committee members were assigned to committees.

Old Business

Jeremy Geske reminded past committee chairs to provide talking points to include on the Annual Meeting presentation. Each chair will present their committee's report. The Annual meeting is scheduled via Zoom on Tuesday, November 29.

New Business

No new business

There was lengthy discussion that was a carryover from the earlier session during the strategic planning conversation on the presentation of Suffolks at USSA sanctioned events (National Suffolk Sale, National Suffolk Show and USSA online sales). The board agreed to recess for the evening as this was a dynamic topic and important to include all strategic planning participants to be apart of the discussion. Bill Zwyers moved to recess until the morning. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, the motion passed.

On October 30 at 8:04am Jeremy Geske moved to reconvene the USSA board meeting.

Directors present included President Greg Ahart, Vice President Brenda Reau, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Lloyd McCabe, Matt Wolf, Tom Burke, Jeremy Geske, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Bill Zwyers, Diane Russell, and Tom Begg. Additionally present were other strategic planning meeting participants Randy Dombek, Randy Hodges, and Jim VanDyke.

Greg Ahart reviewed the outcomes of the previous day. Committee assignments were made for directors who were not present the previous day.

There was additional lengthy discussion on the presentation of Suffolks at USSA sanctioned events. Jeremy Geske moved that the decision to require all Suffolks entered in USSA sanctioned shows and sales to be shorn less than 30 days prior to the event be put to a vote of the membership. Ballots will be sent to eligible voting members as of October 30, 2022. If passed, the change would be implemented no later than 2024. Bill Zwyers seconded the motion. A lengthy discussion continued about the pros and cons of the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Heupel, Begg, Geske, Sorensen, Scott, Zwyers, McCabe, Russell, Reau. No: Burke, Wolf. Motion passed.

There was then lengthy discussion on when the ballots would be sent, where they were returned and who would count them. Tom Burke made a motion that the ballots would be returned to the USSA office, in a colored envelope. The envelopes will not be opened until they are counted. Two or more directors will be present to count the ballots. Tom Begg seconded the motion. There was a short discussion. Tom Burke amended his previous motion to include additional language that ballots will be mailed out January 1 and need to be postmarked by January 20. The ballots will be counted the week of February 6. Tom Begg accepted the amendment to the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Yes: Heupel, Burke, Begg, Geske, Sorensen, Scott, Zwyers, Reau, McCabe, Wolf. No: none. Motion passed.

Bill Zwyers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:39am. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, meeting was adjourned.

There was one motion made by the board during strategic planning on Saturday, October 29:

Tom Begg made a motion that no D gene is allowed in any Suffolk sheep entered/sold/exhibited in any USSA sanctioned event. Jeremy Geske seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Approved 11.2.22.