

USSA Board of Directors Meeting

April 10, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Director Attendance: Greg Ahart (President), Brenda Reau (Vice President), Carol Heupel (Treasurer) Amanda Everts (Executive Secretary), Jim Van Dyke, Bill Fulton, Diane Russell, Jeremy Geske, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen and Bill Zwyers. Non-Director Attendees: Nancy Burton (UJSSA Coordinator) and Wesley Linke (UJSSA President). Directors absent: Lloyd McCabe.

President Ahart called the meeting to order at 7:32pm central.

Approval of the Agenda

Greg Ahart asked for additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. Bill Zwyers made motion to accepted the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on ongoing projects – directory, upcoming online sales, registry work and The Suffolk Event. She reported that registrations and transfers are up compared to last fiscal year to date and membership is down slightly. Jeremy Geske moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is about \$247,670, up about \$9,000 since last month's meeting. Brenda Reau moved to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All were in favor, motion carried.

Ambassador Report

Wesley Linke reported that has been reaching out to breeders to help promote The Suffolk Event and has had positive feedback.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, reported that the junior board met about a week ago. During that meeting they discussed sponsorships and the need for additional fundraising. The awards gathering for the National Junior Suffolk Show was discussed – it will held 30 minutes following the conclusion of the Suffolk show.

Foundation Report

No new report. Brenda Reau reminded directors that the new Ewe Grand Program application deadline is April 15 and asked the directors to help promote that program.

Committee Reports

Budget – Carol Heupel reported on the proposed re-registrations fees from the budget committee. There was a brief discussion. Jeremy Geske made motion to accept the budget committee's proposal. The motion was seconded by Bill Fulton. All were in favor, motion passed.

Breed Improvement - There was a discussion on the board's implementation of the DNA policy on the dwarf gene (no "D"). Jim Van Dyke moved that the association's policy state that Suffolks at the National Show and National Sale may be DNA tested for the dwarf gene. The motion seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, motion carried.

Digital Suffolk - Diane Russell reported the first member Digital Suffolk zoom night will be on April 20th.

Strategic Planning - Jeremy Geske reported that committee chairs continue to work on tasks set at strategic planning.

Education - Bill Zwyers reported that the tasks have been completed for this year's directory and there are new projects slated for next year.

Event - Brenda Reau reported that speakers are being finalized. The Suffolk Event will be the primary focus of the spring newsletter. The board was asked to help with attendee outreach and sponsor outreach.

Marketing & Outreach - Brenda Reau reported that the committee has not met but have had some communication via email.

Hall of Fame - Dennis Sorensen discussed the draft of a Suffolk Hall of Fame nomination form that could be completed and shared with the selection committee by those who have names they would like the committee to consider. This will be finalized at the next monthly meeting.

Old Business

North American Suffolk Sheep Society

There was a lengthy discussion on the NAILE and the NASSS. This topic was tabled for a meeting on April 16, 2023.

NSIIC Grant

Table for a future meeting.

Directory

Amanda reported that the Suffolk Directory would be mailed next week. The project's finances will not be known until the printer determined cost to print and postage. There were less ads but more content.

District 4 Director Vacancy

The district 4 director vacancy will be filled in early May.

New Business

None.

Jim Van Dyke made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

After the April board meeting the budget committee suggested a revision to the re-registration fees. The board discussed via email and the revised fees were accepted by the board via email vote.

Minutes approved 6.5.23