

United Suffolk Sheep Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 14, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: President Greg Ahart, Vice President Brenda Reau, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts, Jim Van Dyke, Bill Fulton, Diane Russell, Jeremy Geske, Dennis Sorensen, Joe Emenheiser and Bill Zywers. Other present: Nancy Burton, UJSSA Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order by President Ahart at 7:33pm.

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda

Jeremy Geske moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor of the motion carried.

#### Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that ongoing office work in addition to processing registry work included Foundation financials and drafting the budget. Bill Zywers made a motion to approve the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### Treasurer' Report

Treasurer Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is \$247,921 with \$1,308 in cash. Year to date the balance is up about \$1000, including withdrawals made. Joe Emenheiser made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

#### Junior Report

Junior Coordinator Nancy Burton reported on the recent National Junior Suffolk Show. Director intern interviews will be soon. The current open contest is the promotional video contest with the virtual skillathon to follow. The group is looking forward to planning for NAILE activities.

#### Foundation Report

No report.

#### Committee Reports

##### Budget

Carol Heupel provided the proposed budget to the board ahead of the meeting, it was discussed at length. Major discussion included financial challenges, the value of the services/benefits developed for members in recent years, reduction in rush fee income as members have benefited from Digital Suffolk, and the commitment to eliminate the credit card convenience fees. Jim Van Dyke moved that effective January 1, 2024, credit card convenience fees eliminated, transfer fees reduced to \$8 per head, registration fees increase \$10 per head, and membership dues increase effective, for 2024 membership, to \$75 (on-time) and \$90 (paid after March 1). Bill Fulton seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

##### Breed Improvement

Lloyd McCabe reported that a meeting will be scheduled soon.

##### Digital Suffolk

Diane Russell discussed that the membership has embraced the transition to Digital Suffolk quicker than expected and this committee's purpose should be reviewed in the future.

### Strategic Planning

Jeremy Geske reported he had no updates. The Junior Committee met and brainstormed an extensive list of ideas to be considered and will also work to review and update the junior coordinator position description and review compensation.

### Education Committee

Bill Zwyers reported that the committee met and is working to narrow down a lengthy topic list for next year's work.

### Event Committee

Brenda Reau reported that a consignor survey will be emailed soon, and she will summarize all The Event information in an upcoming meeting.

### Marketing and Outreach

No report. There was a brief discussion regarding purchasing a tabletop display.

### Hall of Fame

No report.

### Old Business

#### NSIIC Grant

Brenda Reau and Jeremy Geske were excused from the meeting. The USSA will work with Flock54 to submit a grant to cover the cost to link Flock54 with DigitalOvine as well as travel costs for industry outreach.

### New Business

Jeremy Geske and Brenda Reau rejoined the meeting.

### National Suffolk Sale

There was a brief discussion on the National Suffolk Sale, but there was no action taken.

### Tabulation of Election Ballots by Dorper Association

Amanda Everts reported that the Dorper Association reached out to exchange responsibilities to receive and tabulate each other's election results. The USSA board had no issues with this, the USSA ballots will be mailed to the Dorper Association.

Amanda Everts reported on the candidates in the upcoming election.

Brenda Reau moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 9.27.23.