

USSA Board of Directors Meeting

June 19, 2023

Meeting Minutes

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

President Ahart called the meeting to order at 7:36pm central.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that she traveled to the Springfield Suffolk Event and to the Midwest Stud Ram Sale. She noted that members are actively using Digital Suffolk – approximately fifty percent of registry work entered by members. Cash flow is tight due to the Suffolk Event and accounts receivable. Lloyd McCabe moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is about \$245,750, cash was withdrawn in June. The budget committee will work on next year's budget soon. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion carried.

Ambassador Report

Wesley Linke reported that junior program at the event went well – great networking.

Junior Report

No report

There was discussion regarding the junior association, their membership, and engagement level. The topic was sent to a subcommittee consisting of Jeremy Geske, Joe Emenheiser and Diane Russell.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation had good visibility at the Suffolk Event.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Breed Improvement – Lloyd McCabe reported that the committee will be meeting soon.

Digital Suffolk - Diane Russell reported there will be no Digital Suffolk Zoom in June and will resume in July. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of the USSA providing registry services for other breeds.

Strategic Planning - Jeremy Geske reported that he will be following up with committee chairs.

Education – Bill Zwyers and Dennis Sorensen reported that the committee will be finalizing a meeting date.

Event - Brenda Reau reported that an evaluation was sent out to attendees last week. Overall the event was successful.

Marketing & Outreach - Brenda Reau reported that the committee is finalizing the details on a mentoring program that will roll out in the fall. The board shared suggestions on content for the next newsletter.

Hall of Fame – No report – The nomination form was finalized and provided at the Hall of Fame recognition.

Bylaws – Greg Ahart reported that he has begun drafting some potential bylaw changes – those will be shared with the board prior to the next meeting.

Old Business

NSIIC Grant

Greg Ahart and Joe Emenheiser brainstorm ideas.

NAILE

Greg Ahart reported that he spoke with Jackie Ashby (NAILE) – she will be connecting with Walter Steeley and Mike Hancock to discuss the Suffolk show.

Additionally, Greg shared that NAILE had concerns on the current classification process for the NAILE market lamb show and asked that the board suggest alternative options.

New Business

North American Suffolk Sheep Society

There was a lengthy discussion on the re-registration of NASSS Suffolks. Joe Emenheiser made a motion that all re-registrations not from an established international registry are required to link back to USSA registry or enrolled through GAP. The motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. A roll call vote was taken; yes – McCabe, Russell, Fulton, Scott, Geske, Sorensen, Zwyers, Reau, Emenheiser, no – Van Dyke, Heupel. Motion carried.

There was discussion on registrations of Suffolks re-registered in USSA registry. The board agreed that outside enrolled animals will be designated with OE behind the animal's registration number and the breeder ownership listing will be state "Outside Enrollment by".

There was a lengthy discussion on split associations and potential confusion of buyers of Suffolk sheep --- a committee was formed to address stated concerns and report back– Jim Van Dyke, John Scott, Bill Zwyers and Lloyd McCabe.

Amanda Everts reported that there are seven director seats up for election this fall.

Joe Emenheiser made a motion to adjourn at 9:57pm. Motion was seconded by Bill Zywers, meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 9.6.23.