

USSA Board of Directors Meeting

March 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes

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

President Ahart called the meeting to order.

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 Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on ongoing projects – directory, memberships and registry work. Dennis Sorensen moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is \$237,685 down due to current market issues. There was \$1,461 in cash. The last Digital Suffolk payment was made with cash on-hand. Jim Van Dyke moved to accept the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion carried.

Ambassador Report

No report.

Junior Report

Junior Coordinator, Nancy Burton, reported that the junior board is working on sponsorships. She reported that the North American Suffolk Sheep Society will pay for half of the AAJS Suffolk premiums. To be eligible for any of the additional awards given out by the UJSSA, the exhibitor must be current UJSSA members. She reported there will not be a banquet with food, exhibitors and families can attend the AAJS meal. The UJSSA will have a gathering to follow Saturday night's AAJS activities to recognize UJSSA award winners.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Suffolk Foundation will contribute \$5000 to The Suffolk Event to support the education program. The Suffolk Foundation will host the Hall of Fame recognition evening at The Suffolk Event. The Foundation has created a new Ewe Grant program which will replace the Ewe Lamb Giveaway – the application deadline is April 15.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report

Breed Improvement – The March meeting will be rescheduled.

Digital Suffolk - Diane Russell discussed the committee is considering the creation of ram data cards for commercial rams – the cost would be \$2-3 per ram. Starting in April, there will be a member open Zoom meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month for members join and learn about the program and ask any questions they may have.

Strategic Planning - Jeremy Geske reported he would like each committee chair to provide a paragraph provided for this year's directory - sharing what they have accomplished and future goals.

Education - Bill Zwyers reported they are fine tuning directory content. There are six projects- structural correctness, attributes of the Suffolk ewe, Suffolk history, range ram article and body condition score information.

Event – Tom Begg reported that the Suffolk Hall of Fame will become apart of the Springfield weekend. Work is underway to plan the educational program and the sale details. Jeremy and Wesley are working on the junior show – Todd Taylor will be the judge. The planning committee is looking for someone to lead the breed standard discussion.

Marketing & Outreach - Brenda Reau reported that the committee will be reviewing the website for any needed updates or restructuring. The committee is working to create a mentor program to share with members. The recently created member benefits piece has been added to the website.

Hall of Fame - Dennis Sorensen reported that the committee will implement a process to collect nominations.

Old Business

District 1 and District 2 Director Vacancies

The Board discussed the director vacancies – Jim Van Dyke will fill the district 1 vacancy and Bill Fulton will district 2 vacancy.

NSIIC Grant

Tabled for a future meeting.

Directory

Amanda reported that the number of directory ads are down but there will be more content than what was included last year. There was discussion on if the bylaws should be included in the directory. After a short discussion, the board agreed that since there were no changes to the bylaws it will be noted that there were no bylaw changes and readers would be directed to where the bylaws can be found. Amanda shared that the goal is to keep the directory under 13 ounces as that significantly reduces the cost to mail each publication first class.

NAILE/NASSS

There was a lengthy discussion regarding NAILE, re-registry and NASSS. The board will be surveyed for a time that a meeting can be scheduled in the near future to revisit this agenda item.

New Business

Potential Bylaw Changes – Greg Ahart briefly discussed the idea of a bylaw amendment to allow for electronic voting. No action was taken, topic will be readdressed at a future meeting.

UJSSA Bylaws

Jeremy Geske discussed the UJSSA bylaws – the UJSSA board has approved the changes and is ready for the USSA board to review and formally approve. Lloyd McCabe made a motion to accept the changes to the UJSSA bylaws as provided by the UJSSA. The motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, motion carried.

Dennis Sorensen made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Van Dyke. Meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

Minutes approved 6.5.23