

Minutes of the United Suffolk Sheep Association

Monthly Directors Meeting

December 11, 2023

Roll Call: Greg Ahart (President), Joe Emenheiser (Vice President), Carol Heupel (Treasurer), Amanda Everts (Executive Secretary), Lloyd McCabe, Jack Blattner, Diane Russell, Bill Zwyers, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Michael Jensen, Brenda Reau, and Chris Auville. Guests present Nancy Burton (Junior Coordinator) and Barb Stewart (Iowa Suffolk Sheep Association). Absent: Bill Fulton.

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

Lloyd McCabe made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dennis Sorensen seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Amanda Everts reported that ongoing projects include: Foundation scholarships, website updates, Suffolk Source preparation, and committee assistance/prep/materials for upcoming 2024 projects. She reported that cash flow is tight but should be alleviated as registry work picks up in December, membership renewal, and directory ad income will begin to be received in the office. Diane Russell moved to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Amanda Everts and Carol Heupel reported on the investment account. The current balance is \$232,630, up about \$4500 since the annual meeting in November. There have been no recent withdrawals. Lloyd McCabe made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator, reported that the juniors recently had a meeting and discussed committees; committee assignments will be finalized in January. The UJSSA director meetings will be set for the first Sunday of the month at 7 pm central. The current junior contest, the virtual skillathon, is going on now. She shared that facility space has become a concern of the All-American Junior Show (AAJS) organizers. Ways the AAJS may control show size is by implementing the entry deadline as a drop-dead entry date – no late entries taken. Also, the AAJS may begin to eliminate group classes to alleviate stress on the show schedule.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation board met at NAILE. New projects the Foundation is considering including starter flocks for 4-H or FFA groups. There was a good response to the new MacCauley Foundation scholarships and scholarships will expand in 2024. The 2024 scholarship deadline have moved to February 1st.

Committee Reports

Budget/Business Development – No report on the budget. Amanda and Greg met with an association interested in the USSA serving as its service provider. As a follow-up, there was communication with Digital Beef to detail possibilities. That information has been shared with the breed association. The next step is to provide a proposed fee structure.

Junior- Diane Russell discussed that Jeremy Geske had been a past committee member and asked that he remain on the committee as a non-board member. President Ahart was in favor and appointed Jeremy to the committee. Diane Russell discussed the proposed Junior Coordinator application provided to the board prior to the meeting and moved that the board accept the revised Junior Coordinator

position application as presented by the junior committee. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. There was discussion on language changes. The motion was tabled to work on language changes and the revised document will be emailed out to the board for approval by email.

Breed Improvement – Joe Emenheiser reported the committee will meet once the additional member assignments are finalized.

Education – Dennis Sorensen reported the committee met in early December and discussed several topics to be included in the 2024 Suffolk Source. The committee will meet again on December 15.

Event - Brenda Reau reported that the committee has not yet met but the groundwork has been started for 2024 in Springfield. She anticipates a commitment by Lincoln Land College to hold the educational sessions. The group will explore sale management and discuss what that will look like for 2024.

Marketing & Outreach – Greg Ahart reported that the committee will meet once members outside the board are assigned.

Bylaws - John Scott reported that the committee has not yet met but asked the board to share any parts of the bylaws with him that should be considered for review.

Old Business

Registration of Cloned Animals – Amanda Everts reported that the committee has communicated via email and a procedure has been drafted. The committee will continue to revise the draft and should have it available for review and approval by the January board meeting.

Suffolk Source/PRIME Ads – Amanda Everts reported that information is now posted on advertising in the Suffolks Source. Currently, through December 18th, there will be a 10% off ad flash sale. Due to challenges in how to sell the PRIME ads for a set cost, the PRIME ads will now be sold on an online auction on Sunday, December 17 through Integrity Livestock Sales.

Annual Meeting - Greg Ahart discussed the past annual meeting. There was discussion on the financial reports and how to navigate not having that an issue in future years. Amanda Everts will check into options for timeline next year.

National Sale – A motion, tabled from the November 6th meeting was discussed at length. The motion on the table was to move forward with multiple national sales. A vote was taken, there was no one in favor of the motion, all were opposed to the motion. The motion failed.

New Business

Flock 54/Digital Suffolk – Amanda Everts discussed the need for the board to come to a consensus on who is the owner of the Flock 54 data once loaded into Digital Suffolk. There was a lengthy discussion. Amanda Everts will reach out to Digital Beef to learn about how this data will be available all private, all public or a mixture of both.

Hall of Fame Selection – There was discussion on who will be the selection committee for the Suffolk Hall of Fame. It was determined that it will be the same committee as last year, Dennis Sorensen, past chair of the committee will serve again as chair and reach out to past committee members for commitment to serving in 2024.

Director Outreach Calls - Greg Ahart discussed the idea of director outreach calls as done in past years. Amanda Everts will put together a document with members and contact information by district for directors to use.

Intern – Amanda Everts discussed the USSA searching for an Intern, an idea that came out of Strategic Planning. A drafted Intern application was shared with the board prior to the meeting. There was a discussion on whether the position should be a paid position and about adding similar language that was

to be included in the Junior Coordinator position description. Amanda Everts will work with Joe Emenhiser to finalize. The document will then be shared with the board via email. Joe Emenhiser made a motion to pursue an Intern, a paid, project-based position up to \$1000 at Springfield. The Intern appointment will be from February 1 to June 15, 2024. The motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Amanda Everts will work with Joe Emenhiser to include some of the similar language that was included in the Junior Coordinator application.

Brenda Reau moved to adjourn at 9:3 pm. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 1.29.24.