

Last Meeting of 2022/2023 USSA Board of Directors
October USSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 16, 2023

Attendance: Greg Ahart (President), Brenda Reau (Vice President), Carol Heupel (Treasurer), Amanda Everts (Secretary), Lloyd McCabe, Diane Russell, Bill Fulton, Jeremy Geske, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Bill Zwyers, Joe Emenheiser, Nancy Burton (Junior Coordinator), Creed Harker (UJSSA President), Chris Auville (incoming District 4 Director) and Russell Smith (Candidate for District 3 vacancy). Directors Absent: Jim Van Dyke.

President Ahart called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm central.

Additions/Approve of the Agenda

Bill Zwyers moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on ongoing office activities including registry work, website updates, 2024 Suffolk Directory, and Foundation NAILE preparation. Dennis Sorensen made the motion to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Carol Heupel reported that the investment account balance is \$225,043 and had met with the investment advisor a few weeks ago. There was a recent withdrawal of \$15,000 from the investment account. Amanda will share a document with the board that outlines unexpected expenses/loss of income in the last fiscal year. Brenda Reau moved to accept the treasurer's report and the motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Junior Report

UJSSA President Creed Harker reported that the board is preparing for NAILE activities. Junior Coordinator Nancy Burton reported that the UJSSA will have a social on Saturday, a silent auction (Friday through the end of the open show), and the UJSSA will be providing banners for the junior show. Discount tickets were made available to juniors to attend the rodeo on Friday evening. The virtual skillathon will be the next UJSSA contest held.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation will have a celebration table at NAILE during the open show on Monday that will include information about the Foundation, custom cookies, water, and coffee. The Foundation's annual meeting will be on Sunday after the conclusion of the junior show.

Committee Reports

Budget – No report.

Breed Improvement – Lloyd McCabe reported that there was a September meeting.

Digital Suffolk – Diane Russell reported that with the minimal attendance on the Digital Suffolk Zoom nights, those meetings will conclude. In the future Zoom meetings will be set up to focus on specific topics rather than general information. Diane also reported that work continues with registry service business development.

Strategic Planning – No report.

Junior – Jeremy Geske reported that the committee met recently and continues to work on reviewing/revising the junior coordinator position.

Education – Dennis Sorensen reported the committee continues to work through the list of topics under consideration for the next Suffolk Source. The committee is working to schedule another meeting date.

Event – Brenda Reau reported on the Suffolk Event wrap-up call held the previous Thursday. Financially, expenses over revenue were \$3,500. Those in attendance agreed that the event is held yearly and in Springfield, Illinois for 2024 and should be considered as the National Suffolk Sale. There was a discussion regarding sales management, but there was no action taken. Bill Zwyers made a motion to hold the 2024 Suffolk Event in Springfield, Illinois, the same weekend as last year and consider it as the National Suffolk Sale. Bill Fulton seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Marketing & Outreach – Brenda Reau reported that the committee recently met and had a lengthy discussion on the newsletter whether it should be mailed and if it is a document that members or anyone has access to. She would like the board to discuss this during the November 6th meeting.

Old Business

Registration of Cloned Animals – Amanda Everts reported that the group has not met about this yet but some information from the beef industry has been shared via email. More information will be available for the board to review at the next meeting.

New Business

District 1 and District 3 Director Vacancies – Amanda Everts reported that there were no letters of interest submitted for the district 1 vacancy. John Scott shared that for the district 1 vacancy, the board can fill/appoint an individual until the next election. For the district 3 vacancy, Michael Jensen (Iowa) and Russell Smith (Minnesota) submitted interest in filling the vacancy.

Greg Ahart thanked Carol Heupel, Jeremy Geske, and Jim Van Dyke for their service to the USSA board.

Dennis Sorensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Geske. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

First Meeting of the 2023/2024 USSA Board of Directors
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Attendance: Greg Ahart, Lloyd McCabe, Bill Fulton, Diane Russell, Bill Zwyers, John Scott, Dennis Sorensen, Brenda Reau, Joe Emenheiser, Chris Auville, Carol Heupel, Nancy Burton, Russell Smith, and Michael Jensen.

The meeting was called to order at 8:19 pm.

Election of Officers

President – Lloyd McCabe nominated Greg Ahart. Joe Emenheiser moved to close nominations, seconded by Dennis Sorensen.

Vice President – Lloyd McCabe nominated Joe Emenheiser, seconded by Bill Zwyers. Lloyd McCabe moved to close nominations, seconded by Diane Russell.

Treasurer – There was discussion about the eligibility of a non-elected director to serve as Treasurer as stated in the bylaws. Carol Heupel was interested in serving in that role. Bill Zwyers nominated Carol Heupel, seconded by Bill Fulton. Lloyd McCabe moved to close nominations; the motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen.

Lloyd McCabe moved to accept the slate of nominees by a vote of acclamation, the motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Appointment of District 3 Director

Two members submitted interest to fill the District 3 director vacancy – Russell Smith (MN) and Michael Jensen (IA). Both candidates introduced themselves. The candidates were then asked to sign off the call. The board discussed the candidates. A closed ballot was held resulting in a tie that was broken. Michael Jensen will fill the director vacancy. The two candidates re-joined the call and results were shared.

Set Monthly Meeting Date & Time

Lloyd McCabe moved to schedule the USSA monthly board meetings to the second Monday of the month beginning at 7:30 pm central. The motion was seconded by Diane Russell. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

State and regional Suffolk association Presidents will continue to be invited to the regular monthly meeting as in the past.

Committee Overview

President Ahart provided a quick overview of potential committees for the next year. Directors are to email Amanda or Greg the committee they are interested in serving on.

New Business

The Suffolk Source – Amanda Everts that ShowTimes will no longer be able to partner on the Suffolk Source due to scheduling and the time commitment needed for the project. Amanda reported that she has sourced bids from at least four designers/publishers – all good options. The bids will be reviewed soon and a recommendation will be shared with the board at the next meeting.

Consignments/posts on USSA-sponsored sale platforms – Joe Emenheiser discussed posts to online marketplaces and online sales through the USSA and how to find a balance between member benefits to sell their sheep and post content. It was suggested that the breed improvement committee discuss this and create a policy statement that can be used.

Joe Emenheiser made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.