

United Suffolk Sheep Association

April 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Roll call: President, Dennis Sorensen, Vice President, Jack Blattner, Executive Secretary, Amanda Everts and the following directors: Lloyd McCabe, Carol Heupel, John Baglien, Kathy Krafka Harkema, John Scott, Michael Jensen, Bill Zwyers, Diane Russell, and Chris Auville. Directors absent: Joe Emenheiser and Isaac Swortzel. Others in attendance: Brenda Reau (United Suffolk Sheep Foundation).

President Sorensen called the meeting to order at 7:33pm central.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the agenda, there were none. Kathy Krafka Harkema made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, the motion seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the March 2025 meeting minutes, there were none. Bill Zwyers made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented, the motion was seconded by Kathy Krafka Harkema. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on registry work and current projects including the Suffolk Source, the Rambler and registrations. Amanda shared the request from the bank to finalize a credit card request. Lloyd McCabe made a motion to allow Amanda Everts to open a credit card on the association's behalf with a card limit of up to \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor, and the motion carried. Kathy Krafka Harkema made a motion to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the current investment account balance is \$231,322. There is \$22,000 in money market/cash. There have been no withdrawals from the investment account since late 2024. Kathy Krafka Harkema moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion was seconded by Lloyd McCabe. All were in favor and the motion carried.

United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association Report

Amanda Everts reported the junior board met on Sunday. During the meeting the junior board discussed fundraising, Suffolk Event plans, the All-American Junior Sheep Show and creating a budget.

United Suffolk Sheep Foundation Report

Foundation President, Brenda Reau, shared updates on the Ewe Grant Program, Travel Grant, and the Barth Memorial Committee.

Committee Reports

Budget/Business Development

No report.

Breed Improvement/Education

Chair, Bill Zwyers, provided an update on the ewe and ram renderings; updated rendering will be provided to the board for review and approval at the next monthly meeting.

Junior

Chair, Chris Auville, reported on plans for the Suffolk Event junior show.

Event

Chair, Diane Russell, shared updates on the Suffolk Event. The American Lamb Board grant was submitted. Information is now being released through social media.

Marketing & Outreach

Chair, Kathy Krafka Harkema shared a summary of the Member Monday social media campaign that the committee recently rolled out. She also shared information on Facebook analytics.

Old Business

Suffolk Source - Amanda Everts reported the Suffolk Source is nearly complete and should be available within the next few days.

Spring Online Sales – Amanda Everts reported that there was a need for a few more lots on the upcoming April 21st sale; she asked directors to assist in finding a few more consignments.

New Business

NAILE Judge – The board was provided with a recommendation for NAILE Open Suffolk Show judges. A committee reviewed an extensive list of nominations from the membership. Lloyd McCabe made a motion to accept the committee recommendation in order of preference: 1st Mark Johnson, 2nd Scott Greiner, and 3rd Brad Angus. The motion was seconded by Kathy Krafka Harkema. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Suffolk Event Intern – Amanda Everts discussed the possibility of having an intern at the Suffolk Event again this year. Last year's intern would be available during that weekend. There was a short discussion. John Baglien made a motion to ask Petyon Duggan to serve as an intern for the Suffolk Event. The motion was seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Dennis Sorensen discussed the possibility of having a strategic planning meeting in the fall. There was a lengthy discussion. The group was in favor of the idea and will discuss further at the next meeting.

Bill Zwyers moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm central.