

United Suffolk Sheep Association

September 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Roll call: President, Dennis Sorensen, Treasurer, Carol Heupel, Secretary, Amanda Everts, and the following directors: Lloyd McCabe, John Baglien, Kathy Krafka Harkema, Michael Jensen, Bill Zwyers, Diane Russell, Chris Auville, and Isaac Swortzel. Others in attendance: Brenda Reau (Foundation) and Isaac Lewis, Junior Coordinator. Absent: John Scott and Jack Blattner.

President Sorensen called the meeting to order.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the agenda. Bill Zwyers asked to add breed character to old business. Kathy Krafka Harkema moved to adopt the updated agenda, the motion seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Sorensen called for any additions or corrections to the August meeting minutes; two edits were provided. Michael Jensen made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as amended; the motion was seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Amanda Everts reported on ongoing projects and fiscal year-end financials. John Baglien moved to accept the Secretary's report, the motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the current investment account balance is \$261,524. Lloyd McCabe moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and the motion was seconded by Michael Jensen. All were in favor and the motion carried.

United Junior Suffolk Sheep Association Report

Isaac Lewis, Junior Coordinator, reported that the juniors have formed committees to develop several virtual contests – a flat stanley concept, culinary competition, and virtual skillathon. NAILE planning is underway. The juniors approved an increase in junior dues to \$25 per year, junior dues have not been reassessed for over 15 years. Isaac discussed a possible feed/gain trial for wethers and a Suffolk leadership conference. The junior board will meet next week.

United Suffolk Sheep Foundation Report

Foundation President, Brenda Reau reported the Foundation board met the previous week. The board has committed to the following programs for 2026: 25 ewe grants, travel grants to the Suffolk Event, \$250 sale credits for the Suffolk Event sale, and Suffolk Event sponsorship. There will be a Foundation hosted scholarship webinar on October 15. A committee has been formed to review the Foundation bylaws; USSA board committee members include John Scott and Jack Blattner. Other programs/opportunities in development include the Suffolk leads program and programs supported by the Barth Memorial Fund. The Foundation board as committed to the financial support of 20% shared expenses, Suffolk Source printing and mailing based % of Foundation content pages and \$1000 of support to the Junior Coordinator (in addition to USSA/UJSSA stipend).

Committee Reports

Budget

Chair, Carol Heupel, discussed the proposed USSA budget, discussion followed. Lloyd McCabe moved to adopt the 2025-2026 budget as presented, the motion was seconded by John Baglien. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Breed Improvement/Education

Chair, Bill Zwyers, reported that committee continues to work on revisions to the ewe and ram renderings, the goal is to have something to share at the next board meeting.

Junior

Chris Auville reported that the committee will meet next week to discuss the futurity.

Event

Chair, Diane Russell, reported that there is work to collect on one bad check from the Suffolk sale. She shared that there has been a meeting with Reproduction Specialty Group (RSG) and things are aligned to host educational sessions on-site at RSG. Diane asked for volunteers from the board to serve on the Suffolk Event committee for 2026.

Marketing & Outreach

Chair, Kathy Krafka Harkema reported that the committee will meet in September.

Old Business

Breed Character – There was a lengthy discussion regarding breed character and a judge's aid document. John Baglien made a motion to create a judge's aid document based on the current USSA breed standard and educational materials to be presented to the board for approval. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

2026 Scotland Trip – Amanda Everts reported on the potential 2026 Scotland trip. A meeting has been scheduled to determine if there is enough interest to move forward.

In-Person Joint Meeting with USSA & Foundation – Diane Russell discussed the need to consider a joint meeting between the USSA and USSF and an in-person meeting. There was a brief discussion, no action was taken.

New Business

October Online Sale – Amanda Everts reported on the upcoming USSA sponsored sheep and equipment online sale. The sale will also include PRIME Suffolk Source ad pages.

John Baglien moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm. The motion was seconded by Chris Auville. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 10.13.25.