

United Suffolk Sheep Association
February Board of Directors Call
Monday, February 8, 2021

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Vice President Randy Hodges, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Matt Wolf, Jeff Baumann, Jim Van Dyke, Dennis Sorensen, Randy Dombek, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator.

Absent: Greg Ahart and Cynthia Huckins

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Jeremy Geske added ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee to new business. Jeff Bauman moved to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported on current projects: directory, registrations, and committee materials. Carol Heupel moved to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Randy Hodges. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$289,000, up about \$7,000 since the January meeting and up \$36,000 in the last year. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. All were in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton, Junior Coordinator reported that the juniors have planned a photo contest, virtual skill-a-thon and video promotion contest in 2021. The juniors will host a webinar covering Showmanship this spring. Again this year, there will be semen sale fundraiser for the All American Junior Show, there will be several lots of Suffolk semen.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported that the Foundation will meet in March. Foundation committee have been meeting; 2021 fundraising goal is \$50,000.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

Randy Hodges, committee chair, reported that the committee will evaluate 4 districts by membership. There will be a meeting next week and will have a proposal for the board to review at the March meeting.

Youth Promotion

Jeff Baumann, committee chair, reported there will be no changes to the futurity. The committee is discussing the Queen program and will meet again next month.

Budget

No report.

Hospitality

No report.

Hall of Fame

No report.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau, committee chair, reported the first committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 23.

Online Sales

Randy Dombek, committee chair, reported that the dates of spring sales: April 19: Futurity Ewe Lamb, April 26: USSA Online Sale, and a USSA Online Sale in May. Sales will be hosted by ShowStockPlanet and Integrity Livestock Sales. There was a discussion on adding an equipment consignment auction if there was interest; Amanda will survey the membership. The Futurity sale will allow more than one head per consignor, different than in past years. There was a discussion on allowing aged rams on traditional sale. Randy Dombek

made a motion to allow for aged rams. Motion was seconded by Matt Wolf. All were in favor, motion passed. There was as brief discussion on reducing online sale extensions to be 2 minutes rather than 5 minutes – Amanda will check with sale management.

Registry Programs

Jim Van Dyke, committee chair, reported the committee met and discussed the application approval process.

Strategic Planning

No report.

Old Business

Needs Assessment

The needs assessment results will be presented to the board on Feb. 21.

Directory

Amanda discussed ad sales and content in this year's directory.

New Business

Retiring Flocks

Amanda Everts briefly discussed concerns about flocks dispersing/retiring and selling directly to the sale barn. The association needs do more work/reach to members to provide support and help sell those sheep as registered Suffolks.

Letter from Greg Deakin

The board had a discussion on a letter from Greg Deakin that discussed breed character. There was a lengthy discussion. Topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

Sheep Genetics USA

Amanda Everts briefly reported on the newly formed organization, Sheep Genetics USA.

ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee

Jeremy Geske discussed the ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee – Amanda Everts has been the Suffolk representative on this committee, the board was in agreement to keep Amanda as the Suffolk representative.

Randy Hodges moved to adjourned at 8:36pm. The motion was seconded by Matt Wolf. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved 4.12.21.