

United Suffolk Sheep Association
April Board of Directors Call
April 11, 2022

Attendance: President Jeremy Geske, Treasurer Carol Heupel, Secretary Amanda Everts and the following Directors: Greg Ahart, Matt Wolf, Jim Van Dyke, Randy Dombek, Dennis Sorensen, Brenda Reau and Bill Zwyers. Others in attendance: UJSSA Coordinator Nancy Burton. Not in attendance: Cynthia Huckins, Randy Hodges and Tom Burke.

President Geske called the meeting to order.

Additions/Approval of the Agenda

Dennis Sorensen made motion to accept the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Carol Heupel. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Everts reported that current office projects include finalizing the Suffolk Directory, continuing to test the new registration program, process registry work and organization of upcoming online sales. Jim Van Dyke made motion to accept the Secretary's report. The motion was seconded by Brenda Reau. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Carol Heupel reported the investment account balance was \$286,014 with \$7,944 in cash. Funds will likely be withdrawn out of cash to pay for the next registry program installment. Bill Zwyers moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Jim Van Dyke. All in favor, motion carried.

Junior Report

Nancy Burton reported that awards have been ordered for the upcoming National Junior Show. Several board members will be in attendance to the show along with Amanda. Intern and director applications are posted, submission deadline is June 1. All-American Junior Sheep Show semen auction fundraiser is in May and the juniors will need to connect with Suffolk breeders to source 4-5 lots of Suffolk semen.

Ambassador Report

Wesley Linke reported that he has been able to travel some and make stops at several Suffolk breeders operations as he can.

Foundation Report

Brenda Reau reported the Young Producers Travel Scholarship application will be posted soon and opportunity advertised, application deadline is June 1. New in the Suffolk directory this year was the Foundation's semen catalog – semen offered will be sold through the upcoming online sale May 1st.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

No report.

Youth Promotion

Jim Van Dyke discussed the futurity and asked the board to think of ways we can increase participation – engaging the buyers of the ewe lambs to submit points forms.

Budget

No report, the committee will likely have a meeting in May.

Hall of Fame

No report.

Breed Improvement

Brenda Reau reported the committee has a meeting scheduled for next week.

Online Sales

Randy Dombek reported that there are 15 head entered in the futurity ewe lamb sale. The following week there will be two more sales, a sheep offering and used equipment auction.

Strategic Planning

Greg Ahart reported that he and Jeremy Geske met with a strategic planning facilitator to discuss costs and considerations if the board was to hold strategic planning virtually or face to face. Greg hopes to have a proposal from the facilitator by the May meeting.

Education

No report, the committee plans to work on some new suggestions.

Directory

Amanda reported that ShowTimes has agreed to putting together the 2023 directory. Once the printing and postage costs finalized Amanda will look at project's financial outcome.

Digital Beef/New Registration Program

Amanda Everts discussed that the office will be going live with the new registry program very soon and that the board needs to finalize discussion surrounding official electronic certificates. There was a lengthy discussion n if the association will move to allowing members to print registrations on their own vs only allowing registrations to be printed in the Suffolk Office. There was discussion on certificate authenticity. Amanda reported that she has worked with the programmer on ways to authenticate a certificate and the best way to do this is to print a QR code on each certificate that links the printed registration with the actual animal entry in the registration program. That way if anyone questions the registration, they can scan the code and check exactly how that animal is registered (tag, birth date, sire/dam, ownership) in real-time. The office will still print papers for members at no additional charge as requested. Bill Zwyers moved that the association considers electronic registrations printed at home as official, and the QR code serves as authenticity. The motion was seconded by Dennis Sorensen. A role call vote was taken yes: Ahart, Wolf, Van Dyke, Heupel, Dombek, Soresnen, Reau and Zwyers, no: none. Motion passed. The bylaw committee will work on verbiage to handle a certificate tampering.

Old Business

Unfinished Bylaws Business

There was a lengthy discussion surrounding unfinished bylaws business; 1) who is eligible to vote and 2) director eligibility. Discussion included registration requirements to vote and registration and ownership requirements to run for the board. The committee will continue this discussion.

New Business

Sedalia – There was a brief discussion on Suffolk events at Sedalia. The board agreed to have an informational meeting on Thursday, late afternoon. Amanda will connect with Cynthia to see if there is interest in a root beer float social like last year.

Futurity – Jim VanDyke suggested that the board consider allowing futurity participants to select one show that they will earn double points at to increase participation in the futurity program and help increase attendance at various junior shows. The board was in agreement, and this will be implemented for the 2022 futurity.

Jim Van Dyke moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm. The motion was seconded by Bill Zwyers, meeting was adjourned.

Minutes approved 4.13.22.