

Maine Sheep Breeders Association

Board Of Directors Mtg 11-25-14

Present: Richard Brzozowski, Brant Miller, Joe Miller, Dorothee Grimm, Diane Schivera, Phil Webster, Lisa Webster and Donna Flint. Via phone Cindy Green.

Meeting held at Great Wall Buffet in Augusta. Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President Lisa Webster.

We began with the status of everyone's term limits. We could not come forth with a definite list at this point. Brant will check his records. Nancy Webster still has the Secretary's tote that has most of the paperwork. Slate of officers was presented.

Treasurer: Richard "Dick" Brzozowski
Secretary: Donna Flint
Vice President: Brant Miller
President: Lisa Webster

All officers accepted their positions. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's report:

Checking: \$9,140.06
CD: \$2,146.37
CD: \$1,494.88

Dues have been paid to ASI. Fee has been paid for the Ag Trade Show. We do need to pay for the meal at the annual meeting at KVCC. 24 people attended.

Phil Webster brought out the idea of taking our CD monies and using the funds to offer low interest loans to farmers. We would be earning a better rate than the .08% we are earning now. We have no history of doing this. Brant will check with a Bowdoinham group that has done this. He will report back. Diane will see how MOFGA handles their loans. Motion made by Brant to table this until more details can be researched and reports presented. Diane 2nd.

Secretary's report: Notes sent out from October meeting. Motion made to accept: Dick B, 2nd by Dorothee. All in favor. We would like to start putting our notes on the website once they are approved. This will be a way for our members to perhaps be more involved. This was approved by all.

Producer Update: (Dorothee) – The board would like to thank Dorothee for doing such a great job of putting "The Producer" together and out to everyone. We would like for her to continue this job. Dorothee has agreed.

Articles: Update on University Flock – contact Dr. Weber
Fiber project at Leavitt High School
Fiber Art in Topsham

Follow up an article in regards to The Common Ground Fair looking for someone to work the fiber tent.

Dick will do a small article on Disease and Injury update from the Sheep and Goat School. He would like to share an article on the physical demands on a body doing everyday chores.

ASI Update: (Brant) It is the 150th Anniversary of the American Sheep Industry. The convention will be held in Reno NV at the JA Nugget Resort and Casino, Jan 28 – 31, 2015. Brant would like to go in the Director position. Motion made by Diane and 2nd by Dorothee. Dick will go in the Educator position. ASI will reimburse Brant's flight. Each registration will be \$325.00. Lisa W will be listed as the alternate Director on the registration. Motion made by Lisa to support \$650 (\$325 each) for their registrations, Joe and Dick 2nd. Each will submit a full report to Dorothee for The Producer. Brant will be on a conference call with Region I nominating committee; a new director will be nominated (serve 2 terms/2 years for a total of 4 years).

Website: (Al) Not present but Dick reported that Al had added the "Gotland" Breed to our website. We will be adding the minutes to the website. October notes are approved.

Shearing Schools: (Dick)

March 22nd at Nan Kennedy's farm – (6 participants) Gwen Hinman will be teaching an intermediate school. Discussion opened to having a school at a non-member's farm and flock being shorn at our expense. Dick will talk to Nan about membership or reimbursement for shearing per animal.

April 17/18 – Blade Shearing School in New Gloucester, taught by Kevin Ford. Up to 10 participants.

April 26 – Beginning Shearing School at Wolf Neck Farm in Freeport, taught by Jeff Burchstead, David Averill, Brandon Woolley and Joan Rolfe. Up to 30 participants.

During March break at UMaine, Dr. Weber would like to do a shearing and fiber event for the students, free and open to others.

Youth Activities: (Donna)

N.E.L.E. (May 15-17) – On Friday, the 15th, 1500-2000 youth will be visiting the animal exhibits. They learn about the different animal groups by asking questions. We would like to work with Drs. Lichtenwalner and Weber to do some workshops at Maine 4-H Days. During the Sheep and Goat Seminar in the fall we would like to have some hands on stations for youth to participate in. Planning will continue.

N.E.L.E. (Northeast Livestock Expo) – Cindy K. – not able to report. Dates May 15-17th.

Fiber Frolic – (Al) not present. June 6 & 7th.

Dorothee lead the discussion in regards to having the wool pool. In 2013 we decided not to do the wool pool as only 8 people in 2012 brought wool to. We had an agreement with Lindsey that he would accept wool directly at his mill. Only a handful did this. We would like to support Lindsey and his wool project. He used 80 % of Maine wool and we would like to see his project support by Maine 100%. He is short about 3,000 pounds a year. Dorothee will contact Al to let Fiber Frolic know we will be there this year from 8 to noon. Joe will contact Lindsey and negotiate a price. We will have a skirting table there. We tossed around ideas for sheep related activities near the wool pool area. Further discussion needed. Maybe have a small flock of sheep to be shorn. Dick has bags for wool if needed.

Ag Trade Show: (Dick)

January 13th, 14th and 15th. On Wednesday, January 14th, evening meeting from 6-8. Adam Vasher will speak on pet predators and guard animals. Dave Kennard will be speaking on the pros and cons of herding dogs. Panel discussion to follow with Dave Kennard, Phil Webster, John Simmons and Joan Rolfe on guard animals.

Exhibit: Lisa and Donna will set up. Donna will line up volunteers to cover the table. It is nice to have people doing spinning, knitting or needle felting. Donna will contact Dr. Weber to see if he might have some students to do some interactive educational pieces. Perhaps they could put together a power point about the University flock. Brant made a motion that we get a nice table skirt with our logo on it. Diane 2nd. Phil showed an example of Northstar Farm's table. Lisa will look into getting a table top/drape cloth for MSBA.

Other Business:

Ag Day at the Legislature – in March but no date announced yet.

Membership: 190

Pasture walk: Grass Farmer's Network sets this up usually in July.

New Business:

Dorothee expressed her reason for joining the MSBA 6 years ago; pasture walks were held with potluck suppers. It was a fun time to visit with farmers and see different farms. Decision was made to have a pasture walk and picnic lunch on **May 30th** at Collyerbrook Farm in Gloucester. We will discuss feeds and event will run 10 – 2 pm. Board meeting will take place there as well.

Annual Meeting – **Nov. 14, 2015** along with the Sheep and Goat Seminar. Dick will confirm this with KVCC. Cindy Green brought up the need for marketing ideas for sheep and goat producers. It was decided that the theme would be based on “Marketing Your Products”. Dick will ask ASI for money to support this idea. Diane and/or Dick will talk to Matt Leroux.

Youth Workshops: Ideas: Fecal egg count, hand felting

Gallagher Sorting System – Dick to check with them to see what they have

Sheep Hall of Fame – Does not need to be done this each year but we should work on getting a nominee. We can accept nominations from the membership as well.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted – Donna Flint