



MEETING OF NEAOBA BOARD MEMBERS

Feb. 9, 2022

Lennie Foss, Linda Hettrick, Keith Tetreault, Sarah Utterback Perez, Ruth Fegela, Joe Crocco and Leslie Frank were in attendance. Pam Hall and Tim Toth were unavailable.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Board had a resignation of Meghan Chryst. Tim Toth of Pohja Farms received write-in votes in our recent election so he was contacted to see if he was interested in joining the Board. He was unaware of the write-in votes but he agreed to fill the position, however he would be unavailable for this meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting were accepted.

Regarding the treasurer's report: Leslie has been getting all the records and has straightened out a few inconsistencies, some due to Showtacular numbers not posted in the correct areas. She also noticed that our tax return for 2020 was never filed and did all the paperwork to correct that. The reports that Leslie submitted were accepted.

2021 NEAOBA Fall Shows:

The numbers that Leslie straightened out suggest that there was approximately a \$3800 loss from the show. There is also some question about Taylor rental having been paid. Leslie will continue to research this.

Discussion was held on continuing the Fall Shows. While it offers our members and other New England farms an additional and closer venue to show, not many are taking advantage of it. The repeated loss, complaints from Empire (being competition for Showtacular), low attendance and inopportune date were negatives toward continuing to offer the shows. A vote was taken and decision to discontinue the Fall Shows for the foreseeable future was made.

2021 Showtacular:

We still don't have the final numbers from Showtacular.

A vote was taken and agreed upon to continue with Showtacular. A contract was suggested to protect both associations. Joe will write one up, present it to the Board and upon approval, present it to Empire.

Education:

Keith emailed members of the Board prior to this meeting with the suggestion of a "fair", open to the public, at a fairground in centrally located MA. He will check out the grounds and forward pictures. He suggested vendors, food trucks, alpaca demonstrations, fiber demonstrations and more. The Board was in agreement to pursue this event.

Old Business:

Lennie reached out to the Big E regarding their alpaca show and NEAOBA's offer to help promote it. We will continue to discuss with their organizers ways to help and see if they are willing to accept it.

New Business:

Ruthi suggested that we bring back the summer member picnics. NEAOBA previously reimbursed a member farm for food if they hosted a picnic including members and an educational offering. Ruthi suggested resuming these picnics as long as there is an educational offering. NEAOBA would subsidize the food, cover insurance for the event (farms must have liability insurance) and promote the event. The Board was in agreement to continue plans for this.

The North American Alpaca Show and also a UMaine seminar on winter care for camelids were approved to post on our website and social media.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next meeting: March 10, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Important Upcoming Dates

National Agriculture Day: March 22, 2022

Mazuri AOA National Alpaca Show: March 18-20, 2022

North American Alpaca Show/Northeast Alpaca Show: April 1-3, 2022