

Minutes MAA Meeting 6/7/14

Held after Fiber Frolic at
Windsor Fairgrounds

Attendance: Board: Lois, Allan, Mike, Pam, Darlene
Members: William, Pam, Jan and Brenda

Lois apologized for not getting Constant Contact information out as it wasn't working. She will send email information reminders, etc. with questions and ideas. People talking to people, meeting as a group, even though we are spread out, is good. If you can't attend meetings, you can always e-mail.

Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook wants animals thru October on Saturdays or Sundays for 2-3 hours. Lois is not sure if you can sell product.

Lois purchased the video "Alpacas, a Rewarding Lifestyle" to use in our DVD player along with our MAA display.

The Maine Blanket Project was mentioned. Stacey Whitton and Tom Monroe of the Paca Nautrals Team are taking both, Huacaya and Suri, fleeces for the blankets. The fleeces are sorted and credit is given towards the number of blankets ordered with cash for the balance.

Gordon Long, NEOBA, which covers New England, who was our guest, talked about possibly forming a relationship with MAA to promote alpacas. MEOBA, like us, is dealing with a dwindling membership. He thought we might be able to work together to come up with some ideas to sustain the alpaca associations. He stressed the importance of bringing kids into the alpaca industry as they are the future. Maybe we could hold smaller shows, be more local etc.

We were asked what we feel we are getting from MAA. Most have their membership for networking and support. Since you can find lots of information on yahoo, facebook and the internet without being a member, is that enough? We do have pertinent speakers from time to time and it is a social gathering.

Anyone with newsletter information should send it in to the website. If selling alpacas, let them know about the MAA. As an association, it might be good to offer help to another farm with shearing and other chores. We should make up a

list. We should also offer information on how to deal with the fleece and the difference between showing and raising for commercial fleece.

Brenda suggested a listing of where fleece can be sent to get back quality product.

There is a new Aroostook Fiber mill. Andy and Roxanne will give Mainers a discount on their order.

Motion by Allan: Pole to see if MAA would like to pursue a closer relationship with NEOBA for ex.: In marketing – a joint venture or a working relationship?
Vote was 8 for working relationship.

Darlene