

MAA Annual Member Meeting
Maine Farm Bureau - Augusta
January 25, 2020

The meeting opened at 11:30AM

Attendees: 13 Members

President: Anne Gobes gave the welcoming address.

- ❖ Anne explained again how the MAA is a member of the Farm Bureau and as such we are able to hold one meeting free of charge for 4 hours. Anything over the 4 hours would be \$50.00 applicable for the rest of the year. Yearly fees are \$100/year for organizations. Our membership is due in February and the meeting today was at a cost of 58.00. (\$50.00 for the room and \$8 for the coffee set up).
- ❖ Anne spoke about the need to bring new members into the organization. The decision was made at the 2019 Annual Meeting to break the membership into three levels: Professional Membership (current membership); Associate and Youth. The dues would be \$50/\$35/\$10.
- ❖ There are currently 33 member farms. By adding the Associate level we could approach our Vets, Shearers and Feed suppliers to join and they would be able to advertise on our web page. The youth level would hopefully encourage young members to become involved with alpaca farming.

Treasurer: Marilyn Plowman

- ❖ Marilyn was unable to attend the meeting. Anne discussed the proposed 2020 budget. She asked for questions from the attendees. She stated that we have not planned for any speakers in the 2020 budget. Ginny spoke about having made contact with a vendor regarding the purchase of a "license plate" style as a new member thank you. Discussion was that maybe this would be a good incentive when approaching various businesses to become an Associate Member. The businesses could hang them on their walls to show that they support a Maine agricultural organization. The print cost for 30-35 plates would be \$100-\$175 for the lot. All were in favor of adding the line item to the budget. Discussion on design will take place at the next board meeting and be brought to the membership in March.

Secretary: Judy Mullins

- ❖ Judy gave an overview of the November 2019 members meeting. The minutes are up on the website. She also spoke about the open board positions and asked if there were any members present who wanted to put their names forth for the positions. No one responded. Kathy Wentworth asked what a board position would entail. Both Anne and

Judy gave her some information on various duties but that the Board acts as a team. Cindy Randall and Kate Whalen both had agreed to be nominated and Anne and Tim Whalen agreed to continue on the board. Although Judy is stepping down as the secretary, she will continue to be a board member. Mike has resigned due to illness. Ginny said she would be willing to take over his AG and Fiber show responsibilities. Bill Morgan made the motion to accept the nominations and Dave McAfee seconded. All were in agreement with the nominations and the current board members continuing. The board positions will be determined at the next full board meeting, which will be held after this annual meeting.

Miscellaneous:

- ❖ Discussion was brought up about amending Section 5.4 Election and Term of the By-Laws. The amendment to the sentence containing “recommendations by the nomination committee”; to add: or by another member, nominating committee or by self-nomination. Since we did not have a quorum to put this change into effect, an email will go out to the membership asking for their vote either yay or nay. Bill Morgan also suggested we include a paragraph in Section 4.4 Quorum and Voting that we will utilize electronic voting. The attending members were in agreement to send out the email for electronic vote and the changes to the By-Laws.
- ❖ Maine Farm Bureau Membership and Benefits – Discount on insurance, support legislative agriculture efforts, quarterly magazine, can purchase a Farm Liability Sign for \$15, separate farm membership is \$89/year.
- ❖ Judy had the alpaca chocolate pops for sale at the meeting. Two members bought some for their farm stores.
- ❖ Anne spoke about the Agritourism in Maine and touched on the topics laid out in the Agenda. The members were given a handout with three different forms of bringing business into their farms. This sheet will be located on the website.
- ❖ Anne spoke about when she started “trekking with alpacas” on her farm and what it entails in time and effort.
- ❖ Anne has been working on getting member farms up on the Google Maps site. She asked that members update their information so that she can upload it to Google. Member farms must add their farm locations to google before they can be added to the MAA Google List and link on our MAA website.
- ❖ Handouts were given on large animal checklist for agritourism and will be available on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Mullins, Secretary

