Meeting Notes

Maine Alpaca Association

August 18, 2019

Present: Marilyn Plowman, Mike O’Brien, Ginny Rebar, Tim Whalen and Anne Gobes

Missing: Judy Mullins

Review of March Fiber Seminar:

All present agreed that the content of our presentation was well received. Members were engaged and feedback received from members present was positive.

Review membership totals:

presently the membership exists with 30 farms total on MAA website with 3 more not listed on Open Herd for a total of 33 farms.

Member Meeting Dates and Topics:

Discussion on topics for our meetings this year. Suggested topics include: alpaca training, tax info/laws changing, felting, dryer balls instruction, therapy info for using alpacas as therapy animals, farm exit plan / future planning, and business plans. Board agreed to hold member meeting November 3, 2019. After most of state fairs and before holiday fairs. Anne will ask a current member who is looking to sell their business whether they want to host the November meeting. Topic will be on creating dryer balls, adding revenue to your farm business.

Anne will also check with the Maine Farm Bureau for availability January 25/26 for our yearly meeting. Discussion held and agreed to conduct a round table discussion on long range planning and business plans.

Anne mentioned she is in touch with NEAOBA about conducting a joint seminar either March or summer 2020. She is going to be busy with her daughter’s weeding in both winter and summer of 2020, so looking for volunteers to coordinate planning for our seminar/workshop.

Board agreed to meet January 4, 2019 in Topsham, ME at Panera’s at 11:30 a.m.

Member Acknowledgement:

The board reviewed the idea to create a plate for each year to be given to members each year similar to NEABOA. Ginny agreed last January to investigate an option. She worked with a company and created a plate for MAA. There was no price associated with the plate until she gave them a number to create. The board felt 50 would be an appropriate number for Ginny to request and receive a quote. She will contact company and get back to board.

Collaboration with NEAOBA:

Ongoing discussion for joint workshops (see above)

Review MAA Goals:

Our MAA goals were last revised in 2012. Board discussed and suggested we place this on the January agenda for members input.

January Board Director Positions:

There are four positions up for re-election (Judy Mullin’s is still open, Mike O’Brien, Ginny Rebar, and Tim Whalen will all be open January 2020. Team discussed reaching out to Alan Russo, as they are still raising alpacas and he had expressed an interest in being on the board in the past. An email needs to be sent to members requesting someone to take nominations for January 2020.

Miscellaneous:

Mike is going down to Fall River MA to drop off fiber to the New England Fiber Pool. Members were contacted about connecting with him to drop off their fiber.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gobes, President

8/19/19