

Minutes of Board Meeting 10/18/14

In attendance: Lois, Ginny, Mike, Darlene

Lois will be sending out a survey to everyone based on agriculture.

MAA facebook page: We need a policy of what should and shouldn't be posted. Maybe we can send information to Pam Drew so she can determine who members are so they can post info. It is a good form of advertising. No negative input to be posted-possible filter for information. Ask Pam if she could come up with guidelines using Alpaca Nation or Open Herd as a guide.

Constant contact: Cost is approximately \$200 a year. Ann was using and getting training. We need to have a complete updated list. Lois does not know how to use it, she will try to figure it out. Lois will contact Jill to find out what she uses as her information seems to reach many members. We are still discussing ways to get meetings broadcast to more members to save on travel time.

The Gala: Lois and Bear were setting up and Mike was breaking down.

Next member meeting will be December 6, 2014 at Ginny's home. It will be potluck and start at 11:23. She is working on getting a speaker. Directions will be provided once speaker is confirmed.

Moving forward we thought it might be good to spread out the meetings across the state to try to give other members a chance to attend. The membership voting meeting will be in central Maine.

January 31, 2015 is our tentative election to the board meeting. It will be discussed at the December 6, meeting. There will be two positions open currently filled by Ginny and Ann. A nominating committee will be formed at the December 6, 2014 meeting.

Any questions or ideas can always be emailed to any member of the board. Communication is important.

NEABA-New England Alpaca Breeders Association: Gordon spoke at our last member meeting in June and thought we could do a joint venture, possibly a breeding auction or show. It might benefit sales of fiber etc. We agree that 4H children could be a benefit to the industry.

We would like to compile a list of either farmers needing help or offering help. This could help with shearing, or even covering for vacations.

We know butchering is a sensitive subject. There are butchers who will take care of alpaca and some will process hyde as well. Sometimes it is best to have options a bit outside of the box.

We would like to make our meetings a bit more social. More like a club in hopes that being more relaxed will lead to more contribution of information and ideas.

Have a great day!
Darlene