

MAA Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2016

11:30 AM – After a brief time of discussions among ourselves, collecting dues etc. and lunch, our meeting started with our speaker, Tori Jackson, Associate Professor of Agriculture & Natural Resources from the University of ME Cooperative Extension.

Tori reviewed the survey she sent out to alpaca and llama owners in Maine, to get an idea of what people want to learn at the seminar she will be conducting about camelids. She also reviewed how to market the social media through facebook, your website, Instagram, twitter etc. This she had covered at a MAA meeting last fall. This review was very helpful as many of the members present had not heard her speaking in the fall. Throughout her review many questions and answers came up.

The seminar on camelids (alpacas & llamas) will be held at the MAA Cooperative Extension in Lisbon Falls on March 12, 2016. We will get information out to all, by the beginning of February. As registration will be limited, make sure you watch for our e-mail. We will also have lunch there. It was also discussed that maybe we could hold a short MAA meeting at lunch as we should have a good number of members attending. We will let you know asap.

Facebook members – We are asking that you “like” at least one post from a member and the MAA facebook page. Also make sure your posts are for the “public”. This will ensure that people will become more aware of MAA.

The President conducted introductions for our annual election. We have three positions open on the Board. We had three nominees: Brenda Simoneau, Mike O’Brien and Victoria Greene. Motion was made by Jill to accept these three and motion was seconded by Bear.

The President urged members to volunteer when we ask for help. Our next presentation is ½ day at the Ag Show in the Capital in March. She also mentioned the Agricultural Show in Augusta that just passed. Quite a few people asked about starting up with alpacas.

We need your business cards. Check with Pam or Lois to see if we have them for presentation. Many people take them, especially when looking for a farm in their area.

Topics of the Board Meeting were shared with all.

We need your help in getting our MAA newsletter out. Jill has offered to put the whole newsletter together. Articles do not have to be long. They can be about something that happened on your farm, one of your alpacas, something new about alpacas that you have learned and so on. A few minutes of your time can help us so much! Send your article to Jill at bagendsuris@gmail.com Remember, we are counting on you.

We mentioned that we want to increase our memberships by inviting servicing places such as Tractor Supply, feed stores, insurance companies, etc. to join as “associate (non-voting) members”. We would put them on our web-site. This would give them free advertising for their sponsorship. Because there are so few camelid vets, it was decided that we will not charge the veterinarians. The Board will come up with a fee and we hope to vote on this at our next MAA meeting.

The Board members will start this year to pay ½ the MAA dues (\$37.50)per year.

Recommendation was made to provide the Veterinarians with updated information in a new manual for the upkeep and care of alpacas. Pam will look into ordering the new book.

A discussion took place regarding “alpaca showing”, even if just for fun.

Pam reviewed that Treasurer’s Report

It was also mentioned that maybe we could have a workshop at a meeting or someone’s house on starting a store, selling online, using social media etc. We’ll keep you posted and talk more at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Brace/President