

MAA BOARD MEETING

September 17, 2017

PRESENT: Anne Gobes, Judy Mullins, Marilyn Plowman & Mike O'Brien

Unable to Attend: Ginny Rebar & Bill Morgan - Vice President Position is still open

The meeting was held at Bell the Cat, Belfast, ME

Meeting opened at 11:00 AM

DISCUSSIONS:

- ❖ Anne opened the meeting with the comment that the MAA Google Gmail account gets a lot of Spam emails. Some of the emails are from non-MAA folks looking to sell their alpacas. She asked our thoughts on whether these inquiries should be sent on to the general MAA members. Mike asked if these were registered alpacas or pet quality. Anne stated that the emails didn't indicate. For the most part she has responded to them to go to Open Herd or to one of the Rescue groups that can be found on line. Discussion with the group resulting in everyone agreeing to send the emails out to the group.
- ❖ We discussed the outcome of our participation in the June Fiber Frolic. Overall we had good visibility with many questions being asked by the fair goers. Mike suggested that we look into renting a table next to the MAA table. This way we might not have a problem getting volunteers to man the information table if they could display some of their products and literature while they were volunteering for their shift. Once they are done with their allotted shift, they could remove their items or keep them out with the next volunteer's items. A small percentage (10%) of their sales would go to the MAA to offset the cost of renting the space. Mike will put together an information sheet for the Fiber Frolic. We were all in agreement.
- ❖ Linda Brackett from Austin Assoc will be our speaker at the October 14th General membership meeting. It is suggested that our members put together a list of questions they would like Linda to address. These should be sent to Anne Gobes at the MAA email address.
- ❖ We discussed holding the June General meeting again on Sunday after the Fiber Frolic ends to maybe increase the membership attendance.
- ❖ The fiber mill in Saco is not available on the weekends for us to hold a meeting there or have a tour.
- ❖ At the October General meeting will pass out nomination sheets for the January Board elections asking that the members please send in their nominations by the end of December. Judy will draft up a Nominator Sheet. We will have 4 open positions to fill.
- ❖ We discussed the schedule and possible presentations for 2018 meetings.
 - January 2018 – Board appointments and Marc and Melissa Worrell of East Coast Alpacas to discuss the alpaca exchange program; culling alpacas (Anne will contact Marc). Possible dates: 1/21/ 1/28.

- March 2018 – Andy Tardy – Aroostook Fiber Mill; how to prep fiber for the mill (Mike will contact Andy). Possible dates: 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 or 3/31.
 - June 2018 – TBD – after the Fiber Frolic – open discussion meeting with members (send out a survey to members for discussion at mtg) Date of Frolic unknown at this time.
 - October 2018 – Maybe a school similar to the one we had in 2015 put on by the Maine Agricultural Coop. Extension; MAA looking to hold a day school with workshops by our members on topics of fiber and pasture/farm. Possible dates: 10/6, 10/13, 10/20 or 10/27.
- ❖ Marilyn will contact Pam and discuss setting up a working PayPal account from the MAA website so that folks can easily obtain memberships or renew memberships without having to send in a check.



Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

2017/2018 MEETING DATES:

Members:

- **October 22, 2017– Great Wall Buffet, Augusta**
- **January 2018 – location TBD, East Coast Alpacas**
- **March 2018 – location TBD, Aroostook Fiber Mill (pending)**
- **June 2018 - Fiber Frolic Saturday after Fair**

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Mullins, Secretary