



The Maine Alpaca Association held a brief membership meeting before the Maine NEAOBA picnic, held at Apple Tree Alpacas on September 18, 2011. Members present included: Jeannine Anderson, Jennifer Caldwell-Jeans, Pamela Drew, Abby Fitzgerald, Robin Fowler, Paula Ickeringill, Jill McElderry-Maxwell, Steffi McKeith, Darlene and Michael Reardon, Ginny Rebar, David Stensland, Matthew Townsend, Jan Wanggaard, Tami Wayboer, Kate and Ti Whalen, Nicole Carter and Ky Wolterbeek.

- I. Robin Fowler made a series of brief announcements, noting
  1. Proposed changes to the allocation of funds in the budget;
  2. The ongoing search for a new attorney well versed in non-profit law to help us with any future financial/tax needs
  3. Continuing efforts of the focus groups to meet;
  4. The need to form a Nominating Committee to recruit candidates for the two BOD spots that will be coming open this January (the terms of Ginny Rebar and Jill McElderry-Maxwell are ending).
  
- II. The website group reported that the OpenHerd platform was selected, and that we are in the development queue. If members already have an OpenHerd page, they need do nothing. Members without an OpenHerd account will need to establish one which will be linked to the new MAA website. There is no charge to have an OpenHerd basic account.
  
- III. Tami Wayboer requested assistance with manning the MAA booth at the Cumberland Fair. Several members noted how easy the booth was to use, and how well received by the public.
  
- IV. Tami Wayboer and Matt Townsend briefly described a potential new alpaca pregnancy test (not a progesterone test) that hopefully will be tested soon.
  
- VI. Matt Townsend reported briefly on NEAOBA news, noting that the New England Classic needs farms to sign up soon if the show is to be held. They need an additional 50+ alpacas to commit before they are confident that the show will be held. Additionally, a veterinary seminar is in the initial planning stages.

Following the meeting, a picnic lunch was enjoyed by all, after which David Stensland of Red Maple Sportswear spoke about the intricacies of retail marketing alpaca products, and how product sales can help a farm weather these tough economic times.

Thank you to Ky for being such a gracious host and opening her home and farm to all of us!