

**Maine Alpaca Association
Members' Meeting
Augusta, ME**

November 3, 2018

The meeting opened at 11:30AM

Attendees: 9 Members
1 Guest Speaker –

President: Anne Gobes gave the welcoming address.

Anne introduce our guest speaker, Alisha Targonski, 4-H Representative from the U-Maine Cooperative Extension, Kennebec County

Alisha began her talk by saying that the 4-H project started in the mid-West in the late 1800 with young people wanting to develop a better agriculture practice. 4-H groups study herd management, grazing management, healthy living, civic engagement, public speaking with hands on programs.

- ❖ A question was asked about alpaca involvement with 4-H. Alisha responded that there is a group in Arrowsic County called Paca Pals.
- ❖ Another question was asked regarding what was needed to start a 4-H group? Are there guidelines/resources so that the wheel doesn't need to be reinvented? Alisha replied that you would need to establish an education plan. Set goals for each member – they could receive pins at end of program for each goal achieved. You could work with your county Cooperative Rep. It wouldn't need to be a year round program.
- ❖ The 4-H groups have a large presence and the Windsor Fair the 3rd weekend in May. MAA could have a booth there with a couple of alpacas to give out information.
- ❖ Maine 4-H Days at Windsor Fair is the 3rd weekend in July.
- ❖ 4-H is throughout the state.
- ❖ The Future Farmers of America (FAA) is only in Arrowsic County. High School only and focused on agriculture with teen officers.
- ❖ MAA could search out a local club and use a local farm as a teaching location if they were interested.
- ❖ Suggested we bring alpacas to 4-H events

Business Meeting:

- Secretary Report: Accepted as written
- Treasurer Report: Current balance: \$13,753.79 – accepted as reported
- MAA has a booth at the 3-day AG Trade Show, January 14-17 2019 at the Civic Center. You can sell your products while promoting alpacas. Let Anne know if you can volunteer to man the booth.

- There will also be a half day March AG Day at the Hall of Flags – date to be determined.
- Board Nominations for January 2019 – please put forth your nominations for 3 open Board positions.
- May 11, 2019 Member Meeting – Sorting and Grading Alpaca Fiber Class
 - Based on member interest, the Board will make arrangements to have a certified fiber grader conduct this class. The class would be fee based. The cost will be determined by the person conducting the class. A survey of interest will be conducted at the Annual Meeting in January.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Mullins, Secretary