

**Empire Alpaca Association
Minutes for the board meeting of May 6, 2015**

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the March 2015 meeting were approved.

Ken informed the board that Jody Hatch has resigned from the board effective immediately. As her term was expiring in the fall, the board agreed to fill her position via the upcoming election.

Treasurer's Report

The current bank balance is \$134,587.08. Outstanding receivables and payables were discussed and Holly agreed to convene with Ken and Joe regarding closing out the accounts for the 2014 Empire Extravaganza.

Standing Committee Reports

General:

- Ken is continuing work on planning a summer retreat and strategy session. July 18 and 25 are tentatively "on hold" for a strategic planning event.
- Chris Houseworth has volunteered to be the Chair of the nominating committee for the fall election cycle. Board members should refer names to Chris for consideration and copy Ken at the same time.
- Joe suggested that the board consider membership renewal timing with the goal of improving participation in the fall election.
- The nomination of Joe Crocco to fill the Vice President's role vacated by Jody Hatch was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Marketing:

- Ken will temporarily assume the position of head of the marketing committee and will coordinate with other board members to continue the EAA marketing effort while a new committee head is found.
- Ken will circulate the proposal from Kara Dunn for the board's review and consideration.

Sustainability:

- The board voted to decline to provide sponsorship funds for the AOA student design competition.

- Autumn Mist was the only New York mill to submit a proposal for processing for the 2015 Empire Yarn project, and as such will be the processor for the 2015 fleece submissions.

Education and Youth:

- Robin will get back to the board with dates and topics for upcoming seminar events in the coming days.
- Seminars for the shows were discussed. There was general agreement that the show seminars are typically poorly attended. A lunchtime presentation in the ring was viewed as more appealing. Joe will speak to Brett Kaysen about this possibility as a first step.

Show:

- Joe suggested not limiting sponsorships in number, and also recommended changing the cost of various sponsorships. A couple of sponsorships will be tweaked but most will stay the same.
- The merits of a printed show book were discussed. The board's sense was that a printed show book for the 15th anniversary show was desirable. There was additional discussion regarding the possibility of doing a content-rich show book that could also be distributed at regional fiber shows. Ken will contact Leda Blumberg to discuss the possibility of her participation in the show book development.
- The announcer has been chosen.
- The budget for this year is comparable to last year's.
- Joe presented a recommendation that the youth performance events in the show be presented in a separate ring at the show on Saturday, and that Polly judge that part of the event. The board agreed with this proposal.

Special Committee Reports:

There were no special committee reports.

Other business:

Ken reminded everyone to renew their annual memberships.

The meeting was adjourned.