

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting July 14, 2005 (teleconference)

Present: Barry Finer - Gore Mountain Farm
Chris Gilman - Riverside Alpacas
Richard Jonassen - Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond (until 10PM)
Steve McCarthy - Spruce Ridge Farm
Polly Michaelis - Finger Lakes Alpacas
Susan Wissick - Oh, My! Alpacas
Scott Young - Hilltop Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 9:03 PM.

June 19, 2005 minutes were approved and seconded.

2005 Extravaganza:

- Sod will be used in the stalls.
- Paper forms for registration will be mailed around August 1; on-line registration will be available on August 15 (still testing prototype).
- Discussed finding a babysitter for one of the judges.
- Approved commissioning Rick Pratt to do a life size alpaca wood carving using a chain saw. Cost \$1,200. Will be raffled off at the show. Need to find out the estimated weight of the sculpture.
- Board had received inquiries from vendors for the show. No clothing vendors will be allowed since we will have the product booth. May allow the wood carver to be there.

2006 Symposium:

- Barbara Sodums, Education Coordinator, joined in the beginning part of the teleconference to discuss and get the Board's input to Julie Wassum's "Pre-Program Questionnaire". Sodums to complete questionnaire and send to Wassum. Board discussed the possibility of having Wassum do an "advanced" marketing session for more established breeders. Sodums exited teleconference at 9:36 at end of questionnaire discussion.

Breed Standards/Type Conference:

- Tentatively set for November 5 in Springfield, MA; probably at the Hilton.
- Panel tentatively to include Amanda VandenBosch, a second judge, Gail Campbell, Steve Purdy, David Ames, who has experience setting breed standards for other industries, and a second expert from Colorado State.
- Empire & NEOBA will cover fees; participants will pay for food. Will invite PAOBA and OABA to co-host with us.
- Empire's breed standards committee will be disbanded.

Election:

- Four candidates identified by Dave Serino: Michelle Armour, John Askew, Chris Gilman, Sandy Lawrence. Chris Gray volunteered to run as well.

Secretary's June and July to-date report:

- Emailed 17 renewal notices
- Processed 9 membership renewals & 10 new member applications
- Sent follow-up correspondence or phoned 47 members who have not renewed
- Deactivated 2 members who did not renew
- Current number of members: 179

Miscellaneous:

- Postcards not yet ready.
- Jonassen obtained the following 6/30/05 stats from ARI to assist the NY State Legislature in approving their bill to add alpacas to NY's definition of livestock:
 - 264 registered alpaca farms in NY out of 5,514 registered farms (includes Canada)
 - 3,192 registered alpacas in NY (total alpacas: 68,039)
- NY leads the country in the number of AOBA leads.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 10:30PM.

The next Board meeting will be determined by email notification.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary