

## Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting December 21, 2005 (teleconference)

Present: John Askew – Sunset Ridge Alpacas  
Chris Gilman - Riverside Alpacas  
Richard Jonassen - Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond  
Steve McCarthy - Spruce Ridge Farm  
Polly Michaelis - Finger Lakes Alpacas

Absent: Barry Finer - Gore Mountain Farm  
Susan Wissick - Oh, My! Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 8:12PM.

October 6, 2005 minutes were approved and seconded.  
October 22, 2005 Annual Meeting minutes were approved and seconded.

Michaelis welcomed John Askew, new board member, and explained how the meetings are conducted.

### Extravaganza:

Scott Young, Show Superintendent, joined the meeting from 8:34PM to 9:20PM to report on the member survey and discuss the 2006 Extravaganza.

Survey items discussed:

- 122 responses
- Majority of respondents want the show to grow in size (59%)
- 63% of the respondents do not want farm displays eliminated
- 74% do not want to extend the show to a 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Adding a 4<sup>th</sup> ring appears to be the only practical solution to meet the members wishes. During the Farm Show in February, Michaelis will review the facility to see how a 4<sup>th</sup> ring can work. Since we are out of room in the building, other buildings were reviewed so we could add more space to accommodate additional animals. The Poultry Building appears to be the only viable possibility. Michaelis and Young will examine the building in February during the Farm Show. Cleaning the building before the show may be an issue. This building would be used to house animals but the Board decided that people would only be stalled in that building at their request; a discounted stalling fee will be charged for that building.

Young discussed utilizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Cargill Building for seminars. Use of this floor is currently prohibited by the Fire Marshall because it does not have 2 exits. Young is to discuss the placement of window ladders with the Fire Marshall to see if that acceptable.

Discussed having a dedicated suri ring in 2006 and moving the production classes to Sunday morning.

Stall limits, currently 10, were discussed and voted down by the Board since there are only a couple of farms who take more than 8 stalls.

Judges committed for 2006 are Mike Safley, Charlene Friedman and Ruth Inglefield (Performance)

#### 2006 Symposium:

Testing continues on the online sign up system which is expected to go live on December 26.

47 spin-off entries have been received. Kevin O'Leary is on hold as a second fleece judge.

#### Face-to-face meeting:

A board meeting was scheduled for 2/18/06 (2/19/06 snow date) at McCarthy's Spruce Ridge Farm in Old Chatham.

#### Officer Elections:

The following officers were elected:

- President: Polly Michaelis
- Vice President: Steve McCarthy
- Treasurer: Christine Gilman
- Secretary: John Askew

#### Newsletter:

A Winter newsletter will be published in late December/early January. The following people will write articles:

- Scott Young: Extravaganza
- McCarthy: BVD and Tufts donation
- Michaelis: elections and President's Message
- Finer: Type conference
- Gilman: Farm Show and Cornell program

#### Secretary's Report: September 20 – December 21:

- Emailed 26 renewal notices
- Processed 23 membership renewals & 6 new member applications
- Sent follow-up correspondence or phoned 31 members who have not renewed
- Deactivated 5 members who did not renew
- Current number of members: 209

#### Miscellaneous:

Board approved endowing a scholarship at Cornell Veterinary School for \$25,000 and making a \$10,000 grant to The Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (formerly Tufts Veterinary School) for the purpose of research into BVDV in alpacas.

EAA owns a printer that it no longer uses. Methods of disposal (charitable donation, e-Bay sale) were discussed. Michaelis to send out an email with details about the printer.

Board rejected an ad placement in the Vermont Farm Show catalog.

Discussed the Farm Bureau's billboard marketing program and the possibility for doing one with alpacas; will be discussed further in the future when more information is obtained.

Sue Watts has volunteered to join the nominating committee. Two board positions (Michaelis and Finer) expire in 2006.

Board to explore the possibility of adding a "For Sale/Want Ad" Bulletin Board section on our web site to assist members with selling farm-related (no animals) items such as equipment. To be discussed with Don Tompkins, Web Master.

Farm Show is February 23, 24, and 25.

Current cash balance is approximately \$152,000. The Symposium is expected to post a loss. After the Symposium expenses are paid and the Cornell & Tufts grants are made, the Treasurer will look into some type of an interest bearing account, such as a Certificate of Deposit, where a position of our cash can be placed and earn interest until the Summer when we need to start paying 2006 Extravaganza expenses. Treasurer to report back to the Board.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 9:41PM.

The next Board meeting will be determined by email notification.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary