

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board of Directors on 18 February 2006

Present:

John Askew	Sunset Ridge Alpacas
Barry Finer	Gore Mountain Alpacas
Chris Gilman	Riverside Alpacas
Richard Jonassen	Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond
Steve McCarthy	Spruce Ridge Farm
Polly Michaelis	Finger Lakes Alpacas
Susan Wissick	Oh, My! Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 11:05 AM

- 21 December 2005 Minutes were approved and seconded.
- Old Printer: Discussion of how to dispose of EAA printer. Richard agreed to send out email to membership. Printer will be given to first interested party.
- Symposium '06 wrap up

Chris distributed a summary of Symposium finances. General consensus was that the fleece show was a great success and Turning Stone is an excellent facility. Some comments from the evaluation were:

- Need more use of drop off points
- Fleece should be displayed on Sunday
- Need better organization of volunteers
- Some complaints of smoke and lack of alcoholic beverages.
- Need longer lunch breaks or easier access to food
- Workshops should be longer.

- Planning for FY07 Symposium

Turning Stone will be the site for next year's event with February 10 & 11 as tentative dates. The dates may be adjusted to avoid conflicts with Dr. Purdy's seminar and the Superbowl. Polly will check with Turning Stone for the dates and the possible availability of additional space.

A suggestion for a veterinarian only session was discussed and agreed that Friday would include an educational session for veterinarians in addition to fiber arts workshops. Saturday and Sunday are for speakers.

Preceding discussion of possible judges, speakers, and workshop hosts Polly reiterated the policies of not having the same speakers two years in a row and only allowing workshop hosts to have vendor space.

Names of potential fleece show judges and workshop hosts were discussed. Some suggestions were:

- Kevin O'Leary, Diana Timmerman for judges
- Dr. Purdy, Dr. Tibary for veterinary topics
- Ruth Elvasteed, Cheryl Gaily for fiber
- Erin McCarthy, Jerry Miller, Jerry Forstner, Rachel Henderson, Jennifer Lutz for marketing
- Susan Post, Eric Lane, Richard Dickinson for legal/taxes
- Jill Mcleod, Tim Lavan for animal evaluation
- Sylvia Graham for spinning, weaving, dying, or felting
- Carol Gregson for weaving or spinning
- Janet Ambrose for felting
- David Stensland (Fast & Furious) for fiber arts
- Faith Perkins for machine knitting
- Kate Ziehm for grants
- Knitting and crocheting identified as potential workshop topics

- '07 Extravaganza Planning

Scott Young called in to discuss Extravaganza planning

Decided not to offer the Photography seminar because it delayed the photo contest judging. Suggested seminars for the Extravaganza were discussed.

- Marketing
- Animal selection
- Barns & Pasture
- Marketing
- Farm store set up and operation

- Web Site

Bulletin board for sale of alpaca stuff suggested and agreed to by all. Anyone will be able to post wanted items but only members can post items for sale.

A discussion about the currency of the website took place. Barry volunteered to keep it current and to work with Don Tompkins to ensure that everything is up to date.

- Farm Shows

EAA does two a year. One in February – the New York Farm Show – and one in August – Empire Farm Days. Volunteers for the February show are in place. Everyone's help is appreciated! Richard will be taking over as the Farm Show Coordinator.

Traditionally at the Farm Shows, EAA sets up a display. Fingerlakes Alpacas has generously donated theirs in the past; however, with the change in officers, EAA will look into a display for the organization. Specifically, one is needed that can be moved easily as it may have to travel nationally. Richard will be sending out an email to the membership asking for picture donations for the display.

- Marketing/Advertising

A new marketing chairperson is needed as Scott is no longer able to commit the time. This position is one that reviews where EAA is advertising to ensure the most cost effective means for the membership. Chris will look into a new chairperson. Annually, we spend marketing dollars as follows:

- Alpaca Magazine	\$1785
- Farming	\$12396
- Grassroots	\$10140
- American Livestock	\$1275

- Nominating Committee will be chaired by Sue Watts. In accordance with our by-laws, two names are needed for each seat. Anyone who is interested in running or knows of someone who should be considered as a board member, please contact Sue.

- Treasurer

The Type Conference spread sheet was shared by Chris.

- The Ethics Committee

The committee requested permission to review the current Code of Ethics and propose some minor revisions. Permission was given for them to proceed. Their suggestions will be considered at a later meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM

The next teleconference meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 8:00 pm.