

[draft by Maryanne Reynolds, submitted 10/27/2019 for review and approval at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Membership)

CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION, INC.
2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
Saturday, October 5, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.
Tunbridge Fairgrounds' Concession Office, Tunbridge, Vermont

MINUTES

Call to Order. President Wendy Pieh called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Attendance. Members present who signed the attendance sheet: Maryanne Reynolds, Ann Taylor, Kathy Ashland, Francis Ashland, David S. DeLaMater II, Cameron Drew Falkowski, Chester Falkowski, Lisa Ferguson, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Wendy Pieh, Jana Dengler, Pam Haendle, Loriann Fell, Ella Derbyshire (with guest, Rose), Mary Marchewka, and Elyse Perambo.

Establish a Quorum. A quorum was established.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting. Copies were not on hand. Approval was discussed based on belief that they had been published in Hoofprints. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jana Dengler submitted and discussed the Treasurer's Report. (Attached.) Jana was asked if the Rhinebeck insurance has been paid, and she stated it had been paid. Upon Dave D.'s motion, seconded by Sister Mary Elizabeth, the treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

President's Message. President Wendy Pieh delivered a message highlighting the CGA's new database and registry. It will increase awareness of the association. Wendy is corresponding with the USDA to have the database/registry become a USDA-approved registry. She thanked Jana who was retiring as treasurer after six years. She is pleased that so many fine entrants were submitted for these years fleece show, which she had judged Oct. 4-5, 2019, and she thanked numerous people for their assistance in the show.

Election Results - Board of Directors. As Vice-President Elyse Perambo prepared to announce election results for new board members, the floor was opened for any additional nominees. Nominated from the floor were Cameron Drew Falkowski and David DeLaMater II. Previously nominated were Christine McBrearty Hulse, Danielle Fowler, JoAnne Wirtz Ryan, and Heidi Krause. Upon a vote of the membership, Elyse announced that all candidates were elected to the CGA Board for a two-year term, Oct. 2019 - Oct. 2021.

Election Results -- Breed Question. Elyse announced that with 51 ballots issued and 21 returned, 67.7 percent of the voting members voted "Yes" on whether the North American Cashmere Goat is a "breed." (33.3 percent voted no.) Wendy asked members to be mindful that it was a sensitive vote and asked for restraint in advocating the result.

Committee Report - Database/Registry. Pam reported that the system is "up and alive!" She is pleased with the functionality. Scorecard images can now be uploaded into the database. The CGA and Firefly have a service level agreement in place. Regarding entry of kids who have no fleece yet, the system will soon be able to produce a certificate for USDA program purposes.

Committee Report - Newsletter. Pam reported that Maggie is willing to serve another year as Hoofprints editor and that she is looking for assistance. Loriann and Dave volunteered. A recommendation was made that HP, which is now circulated electronically, contain links to educational video material provided by the CGA.

Committee Report - Website & Social Media. Pam reported there is a new CGA website with up-to-date information. Elyse reported the CGA's Facebook page is available for postings. Currently, the CGA doesn't have an Instagram account. Upon motion by Elyse, seconded by Sister Mary Elizabeth, membership voted to start a CGA Instagram account. Cameron and David volunteered to help.

Committee Report - Shows & Conference. Pam read Christine's report on the upcoming 2019 CGA Small Ruminant Management & Fiber Conference. (Attached). Sister Mary Elizabeth reported the CGA/NWCA Fleece Show is done. There were 120 entries, and 100 fleeces judged. Unfortunately, 20 Canadian fleeces had not arrived in time to be judged. The live goat show is ongoing, with some pen judging done, and the ring work to be done on Oct. 6, 2019, at Tunbridge Fairgrounds. 48 goats are entered. Handlers include 19 children. Space in the barn was at capacity this year, due to barn damage from a weather event. More space is expected next year. Sister also reported that the entry process using Google forms was "clunky" this year and is expected to be smoother next year.

Committee Report -- Membership. Pam read Christine's report. (Attached). Some discussion ensued around ideas for increasing membership. Ideas can be submitted to the Board. Regarding annual dues for the coming year, no formal vote was taken; status quo remains.

Committee Report -- Archives. Ann Taylor reported that she continues to maintain the Eastern Cashmere Association / Cashmere Goat Association archives at her home in Massachusetts. Ann is accepting items for the archives. She is considering submitted old HP articles for re-running in upcoming HP issues. The idea received favorable comment.

Other. Wendy opened the floor to other agenda items. Members were delighted to hear that Ann Taylor's goats were videographed for a Harvard University avant-garde production. A member expressed interest in having the CGA provide more educational materials to farmers, including lessons on assessing a goat's conformation. Sister Mary Elizabeth noted the request is consistent with the CGA's mission as a 501(c)(3) organization to educate the public. Several members encouraged support for 4H groups as a way to help educate the public about North American Cashmere Goats. A member requested that there be telephonic participation in annual meetings, if it can be done from the Fairgrounds. Another idea was to have the annual meeting done completely by telephone, and not tie it to the show at the Fairgrounds. A member urged improved public relations for NACG by showcasing how goats can be part of the environmental solution. Finally, members were reminded that the New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck, NY, is coming up; the CGA will have a booth there featuring cashmere goat products offered by 9 farms, including one non-member.

Adjournment. Upon motion of Pam, seconded by Jana, the membership voted to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Reynolds, for Secretary Christine McBrearty Hulse