

Cashmere Goat Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 13, 2024

Attendees: Elyse Perambo, Kathy Ashland, Lauren Slingsluff, Dorothy Avis, Mika Ingerman, Jayne Deardoff, Michael Pierce, Pam Haendle

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by President Elyse Perambo.

The minutes for the September Board of Directors meeting were approved on a motion from Elyse Perambo, seconded by Mika Ingerman

Mika presented the Treasurer's report: No new membership requests, and only had a payment for the bank statement fee and the insurance, as well as a payment for Brad Zehr's work. Question about if there had been a payment made to Allie Fowler for latest Hoofprints, there had not yet been so will be now. Resulting bank balance of \$15,771.15 as of 10/13/24. Motion to approve from Lauren Slingsluff, seconded by Jayne Deardoff.

Committee Reports

Show planning & Development: Kathy Ashland shared that the show was a mad scramble up to the end which does make it stressful, however it was successful. There was a lot more interest from the public in terms of attendance and engaged audience, may be due to being on a Saturday rather than a Sunday as in previous years. David's wife was the show steward, assistant, and MC which helped everything go smoothly. There were several people that had planned to attend but were unfortunately no-shows or came but did not bring goats. Show staff were disappointed by no-shows as they had set up pens based on planned attendee numbers.

Good suggestions for future changes were that they receive a lot of things from the CGA and don't always open it or that it had multiple items in it. They stated they would be more likely to attend or participate if they got a show specific email with a clear subject line rather than including that information in other emails. For future shows more formal cut off dates would help with show coordinators so they didn't have to deal with last minute registrations or cancellations. Ended up with close to 20 goats that showed, Sister Mary Elizabeth, the Ashlands, and Cody (last name?), were the primary participants.

Rebecca recommended more formalized paperwork that would be given to the show site, the dairy paperwork and documentation was used as an example. Also felt we would do better if we required confirmation requirement for people who want to get their goats registered.

Question if Rebecca could attend a future show committee meeting to help improve our process, if there isn't a more robust show committee meeting then it could be part of future

board meetings. Opportunities for expanding show committee with board and non-board members, as well as reaching out at the Cornell Sheep and Goat Symposium, having members who have showed, having a 4H connection.

Recognition and thanks to Kathy for her considerable work in managing and coordinating all of this.

NY Sheep and Wool 2024:

We will be at Rhinebeck October 19-20, Elyse is staffing the table and we have had fewer farms sign up than in past years. Possible need for a future discussion about if there is still a need or demand for this with many members using Clean Cashmere instead. Maybe we decide to just have the show barns rather than also vending if there's not a need.

Regional Farm Visit and Judging Criteria:

No meetings have occurred, yet discussion of need for more confirmation judging and how regional farm visits would be helpful. Jayne shared that it would be beneficial to have more farm judging as many would benefit from confirmation feedback and they have concerns or express difficulties about attending shows whether bio-security or cost. Could we add feedback or levels of approval in the registry or elsewhere that a goat has been seen and evaluated in person and has had their confirmation judged, not just their fleece. For those with large farms there's a benefit to having a farm visit rather than picking select goats to attend a show. Would be beneficial to have the bio-security policies and procedures written up with a high standard, CGA could provide judges with booties and gloves or necessary, and both judge and farm should have the policy read and signed prior to a visit.

This may require further discussion and coordination, Pam's input would be very helpful, it will be brought to a future meeting for further discussion.

Other:

Hudson Valley Textile Project have a OSDA2000 machine and they recently put out a call for people interested in getting their fiber tested, they'll have a booth doing free micron testing at Rhinebeck, possibly not the way we need for cashmere but there is another machine on the ground which is exciting.

Next meeting:

Annual Members Meeting – November 17 at 7:30pm.

Meeting adjourned by Elyse Perambo at 8:29pm.