

CASHMERE GOAT ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting August 8, 2021

Attendees: Elyse Perambo, Danielle Fowler, David DeLaMater, Sister Mary Elizabeth, JoAnne Wirtz-Ryan, Paisley Ashland, Ron Fiorica, Pam Haendle, Wendy Pieh, Emily Weesner Clark, Danielle James Choiniere

The minutes for the July meeting of the Board of Directors were approved, on a motion by JoAnne, seconded by Elyse.

Elyse presented the Treasurer’s report:

6/6/21-8/8/21			
USPS mailing of old HP		\$ 6.81	
Rhinebeck booth		\$ 400.00	
Bylaws legal review fee		\$ 400.00	
Website Hosting fee		\$ 250.00	
paper fee from bank		\$ 3.00	
Total expenses		\$ 1,059.81	
Total Income	0		
Bank balance 8/8/21			\$5,692.14

The Treasurer’s report was approved as presented on a motion by JoAnne, seconded by Danielle F.

Pam presented updates on the database: 3 new herd codes defined/ farms added, 3 new goats and 8 evaluation records reviewed and certified. Farmers having fleeces evaluated independently by Wendy may now select an “event” called “Independent Assessment – Wendy Pieh” when entering the evaluation data. A request was presented to Jeremy for the change discussed last month that will enable farmers to retrieve a “Certificate of Enrollment, Pending Registration” from the database. He agreed that it was a manageable change, but we don’t have a specific estimate for the work yet. Pam will pursue! We agreed that it should be possible to retrieve this sort of Enrollment Certificate, which simply proves that the goat’s ID is recorded in a recognized registry, for a goat of any age.

Danielle reported that Heidi has sent her samples to the Texas A & M lab for the comparative testing.

JoAnne presented the latest version of the by-laws, which have been circulating for a final review before going to our attorney. She noted that by-laws often include a statement of the organization’s mission or purpose, and our by-laws currently lack one. The board agreed that it was a good idea to include a statement, and Danielle offered to check out what we have on the website. The article in the by-laws that indicated that the Treasurer could spend \$500 without consulting the board was removed on the attorney’s recommendation. We will instead include that in a resolution, as resolutions are much easier for an organization to change. We will make future changes to the by-laws easier, too, by changing the voting criterion from a 2/3 majority to a simple majority of members.

Our attorney, Gail, is ready to review the by-laws. David moved that we approve the latest version of the by-laws for submission to Gail; Danielle F seconded, and the motion passed.

The two resolutions that will accompany the by-laws were discussed. The first authorizes the Treasurer to spend up to \$500 without consulting the board (as was previously allowed under the by-laws.) David moved that we approve the adoption of this resolution; Danielle F seconded; motion passed. The second proposed resolution stated that the show superintendent and the Treasurer would have the authority to spend money as needed to cover the planning and preparations for the show, without seeking the approval of the board of directors, for expenses up to \$2,000. David moved that we approve the resolution; Danielle F seconded; motion passed. We also discussed the desirability of a credit card on the CGA account being available to the show superintendent, since it is inadvisable for an organization to have to repay a member for expenses handled with personal funds. Elyse will investigate getting one.

CGA continues to offer educational opportunities, with a webinar on preparing fiber for a mill coming up on August 12th with Still River Mill. Ideas for future topics include training goats for other purposes, such as pulling a cart, and parasite control for fiber goats. Additional ideas welcome!

Work on the judging committee is proceeding. Wendy has contacted all the judges who were recommended in the U.S. and Canada. A few have responded, including Joe David Ross, who is willing to participate. Wendy will nudge the others and set up a Zoom meeting soon to discuss their mission and begin planning for a clinic. Sadly, Heide Krause is selling her herd.

Sister Mary Elizabeth reported on the show plans – which are, of necessity, tentative at the moment. The organizers of the VT Sheep & Wool Festival are concerned about liability and may shut it down. They have already eliminated workshops and may eliminate our show and competition, even if the vendors are allowed to come. The decision will be made by the end of August. We will consider Rhinebeck as an alternative location for the fleece competition. Wendy will explore the options there if need be. Ron noted that the NWCA has a show on the weekend after Rhinebeck – October 23 – 24 – so fleeces would have to be returned very promptly.

The CGA booth at Rhinebeck has been secured. (\$400). Rhinebeck is not offering liability insurance for vendors this year, so we will have to secure it on our own. With that in mind, Elyse proposed that we increase the commission paid by those who sell through the booth, from 20% to 25%. JoAnne moved that we put the increase in place; David seconded the motion; motion passed.

No one was available to speak to progress on fundraising or the logo improvement.

Danielle F. reported that we continue to see interaction, steadily increasing, on our social media platforms. She also agreed to work on a calendar again, and Danielle James Choinniere offered to give her a hand with the work. High resolution photos are essential for the calendar. These can sometimes be taken with a phone, but one has to be sure that the resolution is not diminished when it is sent. David moved that we authorize Danielle (and Danielle!) to begin work on the calendar. JoAnne seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Paisley Ashland described some of the research work she has been engaged in this summer, on cashmere in San Clemente goats, using OFD2000 testing at the Montana testing laboratory. She may be able to invite us to hear her presentation when the research is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55. The next meeting of the board will be held on September 12th.