Cashmere Goat Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 15, 2024

Attendees: Elyse Perambo, Kathy Ashland, Michael Pierce, Lauren Slingluff, Dorothy McClure, tatiana Stanton, Danielle James Choiniere, David DeLaMater, Mika Ingerman, Pam Haendle

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 by President Elyse Perambo.

The minutes for the August Board of Directors meeting were approved on a motion from David, seconded by Tatiana.

Mika presented the Treasurer's report. One membership renewal was received; one fee was paid, leaving us with a balance of $16,083.15.

Committee Reports

Website: Pam reported that minor updates have been made recently to include information about the upcoming CGA show and the NWCA/CGA fleece competition, sponsored this year by NWCA.   We discussed the proposal to replace our admittedly dated website with a more contemporary version.   A committee is needed to research the options and costs. Danielle and Lauren and Pam are willing to serve on a committee – especially during the quieter winter months.   Meanwhile, Brad has been paid through next June.

Showmanship Guidelines: Mika reported that the guidelines are complete and available! She will send a copy to Pam to be added to the website.   Lauren will publicize it on social media.

Show planning: Kathy reported that she has been working with Washington County Fair for months and that the fair committee members have been very supportive. A show was held there in 2023. They are charging us nothing and are paying for a judge and for ribbons. They are eager to have us there and have included information on the show in their publicity.   Unfortunately, support from CGA members has been negligible, with Kathy the only current registrant.   Kathy said the fair is willing to wait until the weekend in the hope that others will register before giving up on a show this year. If we have to back out, Kathy and David are willing to attend the fair to provide educational displays, but the fair is unlikely to entertain plans for a show next year.
    We discussed the value of goat shows for educating both members and the public. We noted that shows are currently our primary means of evaluating conformation, and the NACG standard states that goat evaluations should be based 50% on conformation and 50% on fiber.   By populating a registry with goats evaluated solely on fiber, we are not truly following the standard.

We discussed the reasons for the lack of interest.   Most of the old-timers who once supported well-attended shows have aged out of the activity or have work conflicts and health issues.   Many folks have issues with the logistics of goat transportation, some are far away, some are attending other festivals, and many are hobbyists who don't feel the urge to prioritize a weekend away to have goats evaluated. Many of the teens and even younger 4-H members deal with conflicting demands on their time from school activities and sports. We will continue to consider ways to encourage participation as well as the development of alternatives to shows.

The board thanked Kathy and David for supporting this option and for representing us at the fair.   Lauren will send Kathy flyers to distribute, and someone (me?) will remind Christine to bring the banner.

Regional farm visits: To be discussed next month.

Montana Wool Lab: To be discussed next month.

Cornell Sheep and Goat Symposium: The symposium will be held in Ithaca on November 1st – 3rd.   Tatiana reported that they have some fiber workshops planned and are hoping to have a fiber panel. Christine had noted that some people were looking for more advanced fiber information and had suggested some speakers. Additional suggestions for speakers would be welcome. Last year, CGA supported the symposium with $500 and provided a discount for members attending: $20 off of $40 for adults and $5 off of $15 for youth.   The board agreed, on a motion from Elyse seconded by Lauren, to offer the same sponsorship contribution and discount for attendees (board members not included.)

Next meeting: October 13.