

MINUTES

The spring meeting of the American Romney Breeders Association board was called to order April 8, 2017 at 1:07 p.m. Eastern Daylight time by president, Chris Posbergh. Participating in the conference call were Posbergh, Charlene Carlisle, Scott Culver, Anne McIntyre-Lahner, Allison Seyfert, Sue Kalina, Betsy McPherson and JoAnn Mast. Joining the call at 1:35 p.m. was Don Burgess and Randy Thompson was in attendance for two sessions, calling during work. Unable to join the conference were Katherine Moore and Carolynn Harwell.

The secretary's report was reviewed and edited with updates from JoAnn. A motion by Sue and second by Anne led to approval of the report. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Scott, second by Betsy and correction by Chris on the year to date sum.

A question from Kendra Mabon Jones regarding the management of her father's ewe flock and her ability to register lambs from the flock was discussed. Kendra's father passed away in March 2016 and she is continuing the care of the sheep. Scott moved that "All off-spring can be registered in her name and records will be processed from the registrations on file." Motion was seconded by Anne and approved by the board. JoAnn was asked to submit this information to Associated Registries and Kendra.

A request from the Adirondack Fiber Show was presented and held for discussion later in the meeting.

Chris reported that the National Romney Sale has 10 entries to date. The sale will be held in conjunction with the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival the first weekend in May.

No Old Business presented.

New Business

Elections Update – The committee of directors Carolynn, Sue and Betsy reported the following:

President: Chris Posbergh

Vice President: Randy Thompson

Rick Trojanoski

Director at Large: Scott Culver

Stephanie Booren

The committee of Anne, Scott and Charlene provided the following list of candidates:

District 1: Emma Morton

District 3: Don Burgess

Leanne Henry

District 5: Tracy Haslem

Carolynn Harwell

Anne reported the difficulties of securing two candidates for each position. Chris explained the need for two, based on the association by-laws. Sue asked who would be responsible for providing the list of responsibilities for serving on the board. It was decided that JoAnn would forward that information and request the 200 word biography from the candidates.

Allison provided an update on the National Show and annual meeting. Dates are September 7-10, 2017 during the Garden States Sheep and Wool Festival. The proposal followed the outline distributed at the board meeting in Louisville. Current board will meet Thursday p.m. or Friday a.m. and the annual meeting/dinner will be Friday evening. The newly appointed board will meet Saturday. There will be a separate Romney Wool Show, judged by Don Kniffen, who will volunteer his service.

Sue asked for information on lodging and whether or not there would be a motel dedicated as headquarters. Allison did not have all the details. Sue suggested the committee continue to get the details confirmed so reservations and air travel can be made.

2017-2018 Budget

Chris went over the budget for the coming fiscal year. Questions regarding the funding of the National Show, expenses for travel reimbursement and the need for money to support regional events were presented. Sue requested that the budget reflect both the proposed amount and the actual dollars spent. Chris will provide information that is accessible, and referred to the cash flow document provided by the treasurer. A motion by Scott and second from Sue to set the National Show support to \$600 was discussed, tabled by a motion from Don and second by Anne. Motion to table passed with a majority vote. Fund raising to support regional and national events was discussed.

No vote was taken on the proposed budget. Chris will modify and call a meeting to present an edited budget for approval.

Modification of Certificates of Registry

Discussion focused on use of a white ram mated to a recessive natural colored ewe that produced a natural colored lamb. The issue is being discussed due to breeders changing information on registration certificates. Other samples of matings might also give reason to question genetics, and the association will address the concerns. Following much discussion, it was decided that Chris would contact Associated Registries regarding the policy to be endorsed. A motion by Anne and second by Scott stated "The issue of modification of registration certificates will be sent to the Science Committee with a disclaimer from voting if there is a conflict of interest." Motion carried.

Tail Docking

Anne presented a concern of animal welfare associated with tail docking. An article in the February issue of Shepherd magazine was cited, recommending that tails be docked at the distal end of the skin fold at the base of the tail. Following discussion, Anne was asked to secure permission to post the article on the ARBA website. The tail docking article is for the purpose of member review and comment regarding possible future policies. No policy or action was taken by the board on tail docking.

National Show Rotation – No action from committee. Sue, Charlene, Anne and others on the committee will continue to make a recommendation.

Committee Reports

Advertising – Carolynn No report, some discussion from committee members regarding work to date, replacing one or both display boards, when the branding samples will be available from Carolynn and the need to have this expense in the updated budget proposal. Charlene provided information on the farm signs and has basic costs but would like to have the branding samples before moving forward on signs. Don is ready to have a banner printed in time for MDSWF, but also would like to use the ARBA brand.

Education

Anne provided an overview of the edited version of the breed standard, with inclusion of specifics for moorit and natural colored Romneys. Sue suggested the disqualifications be separated from the wool section and that reference to an article by JoAnn Mast be removed. Scott asked about black spots on white animals. Chris responded with “no color fiber in the wool, but spots on the hair the size of a silver dollar or smaller would not be a disqualifier.”

Discussion of hair color on moorits and natural colored led to the statement from Don that leg and face color should be consistent with the color of the wool on the sheep. Clarification for fading and sun bleaching was addressed.

Sue moved and Scott seconded a motion to increase the minimum weights to 150 for ewes and 200 for rams, and delete the ideal target phrase. Motion carried.

A motion by Sue, with second by Scott, took action to accept the language for the moorit and natural colored Romneys in the breed standard. Motion passed. Anne will complete edits and forward for posting on website. The proposed score card was reviewed and discussion ended with a motion from Scott and second by Betsy which stated: The score card will be accepted as presented and points for each section will be inserted in the breed standard text. Motion carried.

Website – Chris reported from notes provided by Randy. Plan to create supply list for lambing and a gestation table on the website. JoAnn indicated that the information was in the ARBA flock book and that it would be good to use the same format. Recent additions to the website include the All American Show, NEYSS, Stars and Stripes, Futurity results and reminders to submit payment for membership.

AI-ET Scott reported that work continues on a brochure for steps to take if planning to do AI or ET. Anne reported that she has been contacted several times by a member wanting to serve on AI-ET committee. Scott will contact the member interested in serving on the committee.

By-Laws Scott reports no activity.

Code of Conduct – Katherine

Copy of code was provided, as edited by Katherine. Sue suggested inserting “and will abide by” in signature line, following I ___ have read...

A motion to accept the code as edited was made by Scott, seconded by Anne and passed by the board.

District Reports

1. No report
2. National Show plans
3. Nothing to report
4. Oregon Romney Breeders Association held their spring meeting. Discussed upcoming events, talked about issues regarding ARBA, needle felted, checked out SOR sheep and met for dinner in Coos Bay.
5. No report
6. Nothing to report

Other Business

Chris reported on activity within the NSIP and described a possible alternative being considered by a group of Romney breeders. More details will be provided as the data spread sheet takes form.

Adirondack Festival Funds – Chris will consider when working on budget.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2017 10 a.m. Pacific 1 p.m. Eastern

Motion to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. by Anne and second by Don. Motion carried.

Submitted by

JoAnn Mast, ARBA Secretary