



Maine Alpaca Association  
Membership Meeting  
Sunday, September 12, 2010  
Great Wall Restaurant, Augusta, ME

Present: Pam Drew (treasurer), Pat Houde (director), Lisa & Dick Houde, Paula Ickeringill, Cindy Mingle (left early), Morelia Candia, Nicole Carter, Tami & Bob Wayboer

Speaker: 11:45 A.M. - Geri Vistein, M.S., conservation biologist (Maine rep). Geri spoke about the history of the coyote and ways for farmers to co-exist with them.

Jan. 2011 speaker, Cindy Kilgore - tentative.

Lunch: 1:15 A.M. - Geri Vistein joined the small group for lunch and continued talking about the coyote taking questions and answers from the members.

An informal meeting (due to low turn out) was brought to order at 2:15. There were not enough members present for a voting quorum.

I. A motion was made to approve the last meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by those present.

II. The treasurer (Pam Drew) reported on the breakdown of the report. There were no significant expenses to report since the last meeting. Al Maloney has reported that the Fiber Frolic had a good profit this year (a little over \$5,000), even though it rained and there was low attendance. The Treasurer's Report will be posted on the member's section of the MAA website with the Minutes of today's meeting.

III. MAA is still looking for photo's that represent the association (suri & huacaya) for its booth. The photos must be of high resolution so they may be blown up large enough fitting for our sign. You may submit photos to Jill McElderry-Maxwell.

IV. Paula Ickeringill spoke about the need to put the educational seminar on hold this year. In the recent past, it has been a large expense with low member turn out.

V. Meeting dates were announced for Jan. 22, 2011 & Mar. 19, 2011. A discussion to possibly change the June date was put on hold due to low member turnout.

VI. Marketing: Pat Houde addressed the committee about redirecting its efforts from a once per year event (open farm

weekend) to a year long effort finding ways to direct people to the MAA website and other strategies in an effort to help members throughout the year. Pat Houde also asked the committee to work on drawing up a form RFP for BOD approval to be used when soliciting PR firms. She would like them to go out earlier in the year than has been presently done in order to reap the most coverage we can for events. Pat (discussed with BOD members) would like a minimum of 3 RFP's to go out when soliciting any firms.

VII. Tami Wayboer suggested we have a Facebook page. The BOD will discuss this with the marketing committee.

VII. Tami Wayboer volunteered to be the Cumberland Fair co-ordinator.

VIII. Website: Jill McElderry-Maxwell was out of town. A discussion was unable to take place. A suggestion for the website was made to make an area for leads to let us know how they heard of us. All in attendance thought it was a good idea.

IX. NELE: tentative dates - May 20-22, 2011.

X. MAA is looking for an event co-ordinator which would include keeping track of events throughout the year.

XI. Nominating Committee: We are looking for volunteers. There are three, two-year BOD positions up at the end of the year. Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact a BOD member. Anyone who thinks they would like to run for BOD, please contact a current BOD member.

XII. Fundraising Committee: Karen Woods not present to report. Pat Houde made a suggestion for putting together a cookbook using donated member recipes as well as having space available for advertisers (member and/or commercial). The intent is to raise money through advertisers and the sale of the cookbooks through member sales as well as putting it for sale everywhere the MAA booth goes. Karen is researching this but has not reported at this time. Other ideas, Pam Drew would like to research the possibility of a cash calendar and possibly a joint project with another non-profit.

XIII. Pam Drew reported on MAA's non-profit status. She is in process of completing the IRS application for 501(c)6 status, with help from Claudia Raessler.

XIV. Paula Ickeringill made a suggestion to compensate speakers (especially those who are not paid) with a token alpaca gift such as a pair of socks for their time and effort. All in attendance thought this was a great idea.

XV. Meeting was called to an end 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by Lisa Houde and Pat Houde

