

Sustainable Sheep and Fiber Community 11/2/22 at Bemidji Library

Present: Alethea, Kelly B, Trudy, Kathy, Remote: Stacy, Margo

Alethea passed out the treasurers report supplied by Margo. Discussion followed. Margo said the report stands as it appears. Kathy motioned to accept the Treasure's report. Trudy seconded. Passed all in favor.

Introduction of Kelly Bellefy, new board member. He told us a little about his business with goat's milk product "Bellefy's Soaps and Bubbles". Stacy is the new media person on Instagram and said a few words about her family business, Dresow Family Farm. There were some difficulties with Stacy receiving FB information. Stacy gave us her personal FB email in case that was the problem.

There was discussion about the FFF. Kathy noted that she was told people heard about it mostly from word of mouth, not something we spent money on. Fliers for events were discussed. Linda Morke Johnson had suggested a "ruler" to Alethea so that it was something people would hang on to rather than just a flier. North Country Fiber Fair, and Shepherds Harvest are places that may sell advertising. We did not move on that idea.

There was discussion about vending at an already existing event like MN Fiber Festival in Cambridge to replace our FFF which has been declining in attendance meaning less sales. Trudy shared the model of Anoka Fiber Works where the AFW vendors are invited to sell their products at a double booth at both Shepherd's Harvest and MN Fiber Festival. There used to be a fee, but there is no longer by virtue of the fact that those vending also pay a monthly fee to AFW for their vending space in their shop. It is understood that theft may be a possibility and each vendor is encouraged to be present on site to monitor their goods and answer questions by customers. It is required that each vendor from AFW who participates also be the person to set up and take down their goods. Space is shared depending on how many want to participate. AFW takes the money received and disperses eventually once it is tabulated. Alethea mentioned that we might have trouble taking credit cards as an organization. It would limit us to cash or check purchases. Trudy moved that we approve the expenditure for the MN Fiber Festival registration. Kelly seconded. All approved. Alethea will let our insurance company know .

We explored the idea of once again starting Gathering Under the Pines as a smaller more frequent and casual event. Everyone thought this to be a good idea. We established dates which Alethea will post eventually on our sheepcommunity.com website and FB and Instagram media by Stacy and Margo eventually as being January 13, 2023, Friday, February 11, 2023, Friday, March 10, 2023, Friday, September 23, 2023, Saturday. The September event would be the last in the series which would emphasize Norwegian heritage and fibers. Margo has a slide show, Kathy can demo something related, and Linda Morke-Johnson has a presentation on "Wadmal" sheep. We may come up with more. Possibly this event would also be of interest to the Sons of Norway.

February 18, 2023, Saturday, would be our annual Sheep event at Lammers Town Hall in Solway. We could advertise our September event through the Sons of Norway, who have invited us to participate in one of their events in January. More on this yet to come. Kelly suggested the American Legion in Bagley, which they have used for the Humane Society organization as long as we abide by a shorter venue and no food. (10-1?). He will check into it as he has contacts for such. Everyone thought this was a great idea.

There are some presenters lined up already for the Sheep Event in February, one being the MN Dept. of Agriculture addressing regulations that pertain to meat sale on the farm. Alethea contacted and they agreed. Heather Schmidtke of Backus was suggested as a presenter talking about her mill and the various properties of wool. Trudy will check with her. Another presentation could be on how to fix lamb in various dishes. Stacy and Margo will team together to present several recipes and talk about effective cooking methods for lamb in general. Kelly and his wife will present their goat milk business process and products. Alethea will contact Lammer's Hall.

We discussed our meal plans. We will no longer have access to Asian Market services. We discussed lamb recipes for the meal as a good alternative for a sheep event. Margo can provide some lamb with details to be addressed in the future. Trudy will ask David Berryhill about the possibility of donation of lamb as well. The issue is the high expense of processing right now. It was suggested that each person could be responsible for providing a dish (of those able to participate) similar to the method of the FFF in Clearbrook in the past. Kathy thought she might be able to provide dessert and or bread.

Trudy presented Heather Schmidtke, owner of a small wool mill in Backus, as a potential new board member. Heather is a quite an accomplished fiber artist and also has sheep. She just finished a roving project for Trudy and did a great job. She is already an SSFC member at large. Trudy thought she would be a good candidate. Heather was nominated by Trudy who will contact her to get an official acceptance. This was favorably received and approval was given for Trudy to follow through with this.

Kathy moved to adjourn. Alethea. seconded. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted,
Trudy Delich, secretary*