



Minutes
Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs
Board of Director Meeting
w/MAAF Presidents and Representatives
February 17, 2018, 10:00AM
Maine Motor Transport Association, Augusta, Maine

Attendance: Rayma Ashby, David Byras Jr., Katie Damren, Mike Timmons, Bill McFarland, Dean Baker, Ron Hawes, Charlie Smith, Roy Andrews, Bill Jones, Jerry Gilpatrick, Fred Nash, Darcey Winslow, Missy Jordan, Jeff Chadbourne, Thomas Sawyer, Neal Yeaton, Tom Foster, Rusty Weymouth, Donna Weymouth, Sue Baker, Kathryn Hunter, Shaun Yeatts

1. Call to Order: 10:01 A.M.
2. Flag Salute
3. Self-Introductions
4. Approval of Minutes - January 25, 2018

Corrections:

1. Under New Business: Change "Rusty Wheeler" to "Rusty Weymouth"
2. Under New Business: Change "one interested nominee for the non pari mutuel; and three interested nominees for the pari mutuel" to

“three interested nominees for the non pari mutuel; and one interested nominee for the pari mutuel:

MOTION: To approve corrected minutes. 2nd motion.

Motion passed. Unanimous.

Approval of General Session Minutes - January 27, 2018

MOTION: To approve minutes. 2nd motion.

Motion passed. Unanimous.

5. Kathryn opened floor to Fair Presidents

Roy Andrews - Fryburg Fair:

Overall had a good time in Portland. Shared list of suggestions compiled by Fryburg Fair. Will provide a copy to the Board.

Ron Hawes - Union Fair:

Thought great idea to seek feedback from fairs. Though wasn't able to make the convention, feedback from one Union Fair member: focus less on animals; workshops on: volunteers, social media; more break out sessions to allow time for groups to discuss amongst themselves; send out agenda in advance. Thought more discussion on Stipend Reports would be valuable. Wanted to see increase in communication with MAAF Board. There was discussion amongst the group following up how long to expand sessions, roundtables, the success of the open floor at the Pull Superintendent Workshop, and the idea of the Firecracker Room in the Casco Bay Room.

Charles Smith - Litchfield Fair:

Keynote speaker was great. Wondered what happened with the entertainment on Saturday night following the banquet. Concerned about the sessions running long.

Mike Timmons: Discussed youth and social media, and suggested workshop aimed at Jr. and Sr. members at fairs.

Bill Jones - Ossipee Valley Fair

Thought Keynote speaker did great job. Banquet was great - gave thanks to Sue Baker. Wants more ag demonstrations: little lumbermens.

Jerry Gilpatrick: Offered idea of "Stick Pony Rodeo" in two age groups 4yo and 5-8yo.

Jeff Chadbourne - Harmony Free Fair:

Wanted more roundtables. Would like to see Treasurers at the President/Vice President meetings. Thought hotel quality down this year. Topic of Emergency Planning. Chance to sit down with Fair Evaluators.

Tom Sawyer - Farmington Fair

Farmington hasn't had a meeting since the convention, here to observe.

Tom Foster - Windsor Fair

Like to see some new topics, including tourism and public speaking.

Darcy Winslow - Waterford World's Fair

Like to see better communication from MAAF

Rusty Weymouth - Piscataquis Valley Fair:

Thought the workshops were good and well attended. Thought Friday night band was good. Wanted everyone to be paying attention to H2B visas for Carnival workers.

Kathryn Hunter

Appreciates all the feedback and open communication, as planning for next convention starts now.

6. Treasurer's Report

See attached report:

R. Weymouth asked Quickbooks had been updated. R. Ashby said would like to wait a couple of weeks before updating, but that the computer was running great.

D. Byras questioned \$500 payment to Katie Yeatts at the convention. S. Yeatts explained it was a reimbursement for a LL Bean gift card for Fred and Ellen Lunt. D. Byras questioned who authorized it. T. Foster said he suggested it as a retirement gift, and J. Gilpatrick approved it. K. Hunter read a thank you email from Fred Lunt.

MOTION: M. Timmons to accept Treasurer's Report. D. Byras 2nd motion.

Motion passed. Unanimous.

7. Clerk's Report

K. Hunter thanked Sue for help with scheduling room for meetings.

S. Baker reported that all the mail had been picked up and delivered. Told. R. Ashby that she held this months because she wanted to know how she wanted it delivered, and if she wanted a physical bank statement.

8. Executive Director's Report

S. Yeatts reported that there was a new Facebook page and encouraged everyone to like it.

S. Yeatts reported that he had been trying to gain access to the MAAF website, but had been unable to obtain the username and password. He is aware of the site being extremely outdated, and that it was one of his top priorities.

S. Yeatts addressed the group about advertising in the Maine Department of Agriculture's Springtime Maine publication. There was discussion about advertising, and decided not to pursue this

advertisement. Discussion continued regarding Bill Green's Maine, and it was decided to look into this opportunity.

9. Legislative Liaison Report

K. Damren reported on bill to eliminate the Harness Racing Promotion Board. In a work session this week, and expects a vote soon. Discussed how the Commissioner had left unfilled vacancies on the Board.

K. Damren reported on the Internet Wagering Bill being in Veteran and Legal Affairs Committee.

R. Weymouth wondered if anything new was coming up. Discussion about the Governor and non-profits.

10. MDACF Agricultural Program Specialist's Report

M. Jordan discussed click through advertising as a measure value of advertising money spent. Discussed idea of a \$2 voucher off fair gate prices, with the caveat that fairs would need to collect and submit to the State for reimbursement. M. Jordan said State spends about \$18,000 in advertising a years.

M. Jordan discussed tourism. the Commissioner is working with motor coach to provide VIP tours/behind the scenes experience.

M. Jordan asked fairs if they would be willing to give the State a copy of their maine vendor list.

M. Jordan updated on Vet training for Public Health inspection on March 31st. Discussed a Stipend Meeting and Evaluators Meeting.

11. Committee Reports

K. Hunter announced the 2018 Committee list.

R. Weymouth asked if there was a policy about non-board members on committees? No one objected.

12. Old Business

B. McFarland congratulated M. Timmons on being named Chairman of the Maine State Harness Racing Commission. M. Timmons updated on the sale of starting gates. Last week he sent an email to the fair presidents asking them to commit to using new buyers so that they would proceed with the sale.

M. Timmons updated on lease at Scarborough Downs. Concerns because there is only a 1 year commitment.

13. New Business

K. Hunter discussed sponsoring this years Zone 1 meeting.

Motion: R. Weymouth: Sponsor \$1,000 to this years Zone 1 meeting. D. Byras 2nd.

Passed. Unanimous

K. Hunter encourages fairs to attend the IAFE National Conference. Discussed sponsorship opportunities. Encouraged the eight non IAFE member fairs to join.

K. Hunter announced new contact list and new meeting schedule.

K. Hunter discussed the MAAF/MDACF Reception on April 5th. Cost would be around \$1,000. B. McFarland thought it was a super idea to strengthen relationship.

Motion: T. Foster: For MAAF to fund the MAAF/MDACF Reception. D. Byras 2nd.

Passed. Unanimous

R. Weymouth printed out copies of the Conflict of Interest Policy and Bylaws. Concerned the board was not following Bylaws: 1. All money should be received by the clerk then passed to the Treasurer; 2. Times and place of meeting shall be determined by the Officers of the Association.

Discussion that all mail should go to P.O. Box.

T. Foster asked how nomination committee was chosen. K. Hunter told him the 2nd vice president chooses the vacant seat. Discussion on history of Bylaws and nomination committee.

Motion: To Adjourn. Motion 2nd. Passed. Unanimous

14. Adjournment: 12:18 P.M.