

## Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs

### Board of Directors' Meeting

#### Fryeburg Fairgrounds

October 5, 2019

**Attendance:** David Andrews (Fryeburg Fair), Roy Andrews (Fryeburg Fair), Rayma Ashby (Litchfield), David Byras (Litchfield/Pittston), Jeff Chadbourne (Harmony), Catharine Damren (Windsor), Mark Damren (Windsor), Tom Foster (Windsor), Jerry Gilpatrick (Ossipee Valley), Steve Graustein (Fryeburg), David Hastings (Fryeburg), Kathryn Hunter (Topsham), Melissa Jordan (MDACF), Katherine Kugelman (Fryeburg), Ashley Morrill (Ossipee Valley), Charles Morrill (Ossipee Valley), Barry W. Norris (Union), Junia Norris (Union), Hope Ricker (Pittston), Mike Timmons (Cumberland), Jack Wadsworth (Fryeburg), Rusty Weymouth (Piscataquis Valley), Darcy Winslow (Waterford), Neal Yeaton (Farmington), Glenn Zaidman (Fryeburg).

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM
2. Flag Salute
3. Due to the large number present everyone introduced themselves as well as indicating their fair affiliation.
4. Previous minutes were read. Motion made to change the previous minutes to read the retreat is scheduled for "October 20<sup>th</sup>", not October 5<sup>th</sup>. Also to change the Nomination committee name to Rachel Andrews **Damon**. Motion made and seconded (Neal Yeaton and Jeff Chadbourne) to approve the minutes. Unanimous
5. **Treasurer's report** was given by Rayma Ashby. Checking account balance: \$22,413.92
6. Savings account balance: \$27,832.76 5 month CD: \$5,172.89  
Discussion followed regarding:  
Fairs who have not paid their 2019 dues. Executive director will contact that fair directly.  
Scholarship monies have been transferred to a separate account. \$24,243.31  
R. Weymouth questioned expenses listed for IAFE attendance. Stipend monies for board members to attend was reviewed. Motion made and seconded (Tom Foster and Jeff Chadbourne) to accept the report. Unanimous.  
A donation was requested by Ag in the Classroom. History shows the following:  
6/17 - \$300 donated/6/18 - \$300 donated.  
R. Weymouth moved and D. Byras seconded that MAAF donate \$300 in 2019. Unanimous.  
ME Invites You brochure requested that MAAF pay for an ad in 2020 brochure. Cost is \$1,000.  
Discussion followed. Motion made and seconded not to place an ad. (D. Byras and R. Weymouth) Unanimous
7. **Clerk's report.** All mail had been picked up through Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Included were bank statements, thank you notes and miscellaneous magazines.

## 8. Legislative Liaison report

- a. Catharine Damren spoke about her visits to Farmington Fair and Skowhegan Fair. She reviewed the cascade process of monies distributed to fairs and encouraged fairs – both pari-mutuel and non-pari-mutuel – to attend upcoming legislative hearings that impact harness racing, especially November 7<sup>th</sup>. K. Hunter asked about the delay in awarding race dates, and M. Timmons explained the reason behind the delay.
  - b.
9. **MDACF report.** Melissa Jordan gave updates on the 2019 fair season, which included outstanding attendance in many fairs, with records being set and money being made. Amanda Beal, MDACF commissioner, attended Fryeburg Fair and offered opening remarks prior to the parade. Missy thanked the MAAF board members who represented MAAF in the parade. There is a new probationary fair – Pembroke – and their requested dates were incorrect. This error is being rectified. R. Weymouth suggested adding an asterisk\* to the dates listed for Northern Maine Fair until their dates are finalized.

## 10. Committee reports

- a. **Awards:** The committee met through email. Considering a “Rising Star” award. Looking for suggestions and applications for awards.
- b. **Website:** S. Graustein is suggesting a server change to *mainefairs.com* since [mainefairs.org](http://mainefairs.org) is still controlled by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. It is proving costly for MAAF to obtain control.
- c. **Entertainment:** The Allison Ames Band will perform on Friday evening and Birdie Googins will be the Saturday evening entertainment.
- d. **Conference:** D. Byras shared that the committee is considering many suggestions. K. Hunter asked for information about, hotels, schedule, etc to be posted on the website as soon as possible. She stressed the need for timeliness. S. Morrill asked about including opportunities for those involved with goats. D. Byras shared that the committee would be meeting following the MAAF monthly meeting to flesh out programs. D. Winslow asked that the committee create a conference evaluation form, to be completed and collected at the conclusion of the conference. J. Norris volunteered to collect the forms.
- e. **By-Laws:** B. Norris asked that changes be considered regarding the Associate Members section. It has been included in the current by-laws that associate members must be voted on by the board. A change for the current by-laws is to note the number 5 change to 7. For the 2021 conference, there should be a procedure in place for fair presidents to nominate officers from the floor. Next year, the by-laws committee will add one member. Also there should be one additional nominating committee member.

## 11. Executive Director’s report

There have been many MAAF related **meetings** in Augusta over the past two months. One with the gambling control board and, more recently, with the fire marshal’s office. This office oversees the safety regulations for motor sports, and the fairs have approached the executive director about helping to craft legislation to address this

issue. R. Hall assisted with this initial step. A committee of R.Hall, D. Hastings and J. Chadbourne will work on this proposal to address various public safety issues, including grandstands, and report back at the January conference. During the conference, there will be 2 programs addressing these issues: 1. Fire marshal and games of chance issues. 2. Carnivals, Fairs and the Fire Marshal's office. All fairs MUST send a representative. All carnivals working with Maine fairs are on board. Looking to create and maintain partnerships.

**Efficiency Maine** has begun onsite work with 2 fairs – Farmington and Fryeburg . The PUC is working on rate change language, as they are charged with having a plan in place. R. Weymouth and Dover-Foxcroft has been working with Efficiency Maine regarding installing solar panels.

**2019 MAAF January Conference** schedule should be up on the website by midDecember. Fairs will be encouraged to contact the hotels directly to make housing arrangements. Barry has requested that all fairs send 4-6 photos from their fair to be include in MAAF pull-up photo displays. These will showcase the many highlights of our Maine fairs. RFPs are due back and one pull-up will be ready for the AG Show. During the upcoming conference, there will be a meeting of all fair presidents on Saturday morning at 7:30 am. Breakfast will be provided. Presidents will be asked to discuss and come to consensus on the following issues:

1. number of state fair passes to be allotted to each fair
2. location and format for the 2021 Maine Agricultural Fair Association conference

**MAAF board retreat** will begin at 8:30am in Augusta on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. A light breakfast and a light lunch will be provided. Our retreat facilitator was suggested by the IAFE office.

**January 2020 Ag Show in Augusta** – January 14,15,16. A corner booth has been requested for more exposure. MAAF flyers will be available to distribute. A \$500 flyer sponsorship has been given from harness racing.

**Big E** : Bill McFarland is working to get a bus to transport MAAF members to attend Maine Day 2020 at The Big E. There would be an overnight stay, and the approx.. cost would be \$90 per person.

**IAFE** representatives were guests of the Fryeburg Fair and enjoyed visiting the many sights on the fairgrounds, including a helicopter ride.

**Budget process:** Looking to streamline the budget process as approach 2020. Specific expenses have designated line items in budget.

**Website** has been a challenge to work with as wait for new info to load. **Newsletter** should be sent out November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Miscellaneous question and answers:**

Q. When are bids coming out for printing, conference meals and sound? A. Printing is out and due back on 11/1. Sound: ready asap.

Conference meals: Will have from Holiday Inn soon. Cost difference between plate vs buffet will be presented.

Q. Where is November meeting? A. Bangor Savings Bank, Augusta.

Q. Can we move the December meeting to 12/14 to accommodate the several board members attending the IAFE conference in San Antonio? A. Yes, moved to 12/14.

Q. What was the result of researching a bus to the 2020 Zone 1 meeting in York, PA?  
A. a 55 seat bus, with a bathroom, is available for \$100pp. Could also include a side trip to PA Dutch/Amish area if group was interested.

Q. What is the exact dues assessment formula for fairs belonging to MAAF?

A. The formula is as follows : 3% of the stipend monies plus \$100 dues.

**12. Old Business**

- a. **Professional Development Funding.** D. Byras asked that the conference registration fee be paid. It is an educational opportunity. R. Weymouth spoke representing the budget committee, and shared that there are limited MAAF funds available and listed the expenses and rationale for refusing the request. K. Hunter asked about using the savings account funds. B. Norris said that some fair presidents have asked what the funds in the savings account are being used for, and suggested that the fairs might pay a lower percentage for their dues. R. Ashby shared that the savings account has not been accessed for a lengthy period of time and the bank was considering turning the balance over to the State of Maine. B. Norris added that by attending conferences the information gathered helps the entire fair community. T. Foster suggested that certain fairs should set aside monies in their budget to support the conference requests. It was moved and seconded for MAAF to contribute \$400 toward conference registration expenses for officers and board members. (S. Graustein and D. Byras) Affirmative. 8-2. ( N. Yeaton and R. Weymouth)
- b. **Policy Manual.** Policy dealing with the election of officers at the annual meeting. The incoming slate of elected officers will assume their responsibilities on the Sunday following the annual meeting.

