

Sustainable Sheep and Fiber Community of Northern MN
board meeting held at the Bemidji Library 6/21/23

Present: Alethea, Kelly, Trudy.

Remote: Stacy, Margo, Heather

The meeting was opened and Trudy read the detailed and lengthy minutes from 11/2/22. (addendum: Alethea sent an email with the 12/3/22 minutes to our board members after our meeting.) Margo read the treasurer's report as of 6/21/23. Kelly moved to accept the treasurer's report. Stacy seconded and all in favor.

No old business was noted.

We voted in officers for the SSFC board. Margo will continue as treasurer. Trudy will continue as secretary and membership secretary. Alethea will continue as Chairperson and Kathy will continue as Vice Chairperson. Heather motioned to accept these positions as noted, and Kelly seconded. Passed unanimously.

Robin Bellefy was nominated by Kelly to be on the board. Kelly confirmed her acceptance.

Margo brought up media. We explored how to and who would maintain our media. Margo would like to not do this. Heather will send contact info to Margo to work out how Heather can help out with FB.

We discussed the Park Rapids FFF which is coordinating with the Farmer's Market there. There are five vendors signed up so far (plus Margo who intends to participate this year as a vendor). We have 8 spaces allotted to us, but possibly more available. We discussed the raffle and a silent auction option. It was decided we will not mail items to winners any more. They must be present to receive their prize. Kathy will organize the silent auction. Increments of at least \$1.00 will be set.

We discussed the Fiber Gatherings Under the Pines in Bagley, September 23, 2023, from 10-2 at the American Legion. Margo will do a slide show on Norway, but needs tech help to get it up on the screen. Kelly will do that. About an hour total of presentation and questions are planned for by Margo. Also an hour for Linda's Morke Johnson's presentation on "Wadmal". We discussed lunch. Kitchen can be used at the Legion. Kelly will put some fliers at the Bagley Fair. Alethea will make fliers up or has some. Kelly suggested we get donations for the Humane Society from local stores. They successfully do that for the annual Humane Society event. Some places that have been receptive and helpful are Galen's, Lueken's, and Kubiak's. A free will offering bucket will be also available at this event to help with expenses.

Linda and Margo would be in the 10-12 window and after these presentations we would have lunch. After lunch we would have the Fiber activity and participation as we have had previously last winter at the Clearwater Life Center. Those interested can hang out doing fiber things until close at 2PM.

We discussed the Sheep Event for 2/17/2024. It will be our 10th anniversary. Alethea presented the idea that maybe we should do something special to commemorate this time. Maybe we could feature some long standing farmers in the community. Gail Rixen is an example who has been a long time shepherdess and weaver. Maybe Dennis and Philip Engebretson together, Byron Johnson Shearer, Lynn Mizner. A past, present, future theme is a possibility. It was suggested to try and contact presenters from our first event as presenters. Maybe they could address how things have changed for them in the past 10 years. Alethea will start contacting possibilities and we will discuss again in the future at our next meeting.

We discussed what to do for lunch at the Sheep Event. The lamb dishes were very popular last year. It was generally thought this would be a good way to go again. Dennis also donated elk last time which was very well received. We were in agreement on choosing Lammers Town Hall in Solway again to stay in the same location for consistency. Alethea will check to see if this is available.

Alethea brought up the cost of printing for events like the St. Louis County Fair where she will be providing SSFC information as well as participating. We were in agreement that she should not bear the cost of this and should have fliers printed billing back to SSFC. She will sell the recipe books for \$5 for SSFC. She will send Margo the bill. She said that she and Kathy Belt, who represented the SSFC at Shepherds Harvest, passed out many brochures and in fact ran out. Shepherd's Harvest was very busy this year, and both Kathy and Alethea had many, many inquiries and much interest over the two day period in May, 2023 even though not many were from northern MN.

Kelly moved to adjourn. Trudy seconded and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Trudy Delich, Secretary SSFC