

NFHR -- Minutes of July 20, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

Present: Howard Fiedler, Jeff Pedersen, Nancy Newport, Curtis Pierce, Ardeth Obenauf, Teresa Kandianis, Beth German, Mike May, Jeanne Poirier, Bill Coli.

Absent: Beth Gerst, Roger Cabic

President's report: Howard began by saying that he wanted all Board members to review the Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct, including the confidentiality provisions.

The June 1st meeting minutes had been previously approved through email vote. Jeanne Poirier will post them on the web.

Nancy Newport gave the treasurer's report. The bank balances are:

Bank of America checking \$	7,070.27
Bank of America CD	15,401.08
Fairport CD	16,658.11

These amounts do not include deposits for the evaluation in Greeley which Dan Watanabe has held pending confirmation that the evaluation will proceed despite evaluator Karen Maas' last minute cancellation. Nancy reported the bad news that the Registry has very little money but the good news is that we should be able to keep operating until new memberships and membership renewals come in. Discussion was held regarding when membership renewals are usually received and the need to think of ways to encourage members to renew their memberships promptly. Memberships can now be purchased and renewed electronically; the Board hopes that this will help.

Committee Reports:

WHEAP: Jeff reported that he and Nancy had spoken about replenishing the Marketplace inventory and will try to get it done by September.

Herald: Teresa reported that people seem to really love the Herald in its current format but that the economy is to blame for the loss in advertising revenue. She reported that the Northwest club had had its show at HAPPS which was an incredible facility including a swing bridge, water obstacles and woods.

Education: Ardeth reported that she had attended the 2nd virtual ADS meeting and was working on a body clipping video. She and Ruth Sorum are working on planning the Educational Forum, to be held January 28-30, 2010 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee just outside of Nashville. Ruth is planning the banquet which will celebrate Mike May's 25 years with and retirement from the NFHR. Howard mentioned that he had gone to Columbus and picked up the cart which can be used as a door prize/fundraiser for the Educational Forum. He offered to take the cart to

Tennessee to be delivered to the recipient if he or she is going to attend the forum. Jeff offered to transport it to the West Coast if necessary and Curtis offered to take it to the East Coast.

Promotions: Bill Coli said the committee has been inactive. He does want to create a travelling display to go to WEG and local club shows. He mentioned that the Northeast club was bringing fjords to a Scandinavian re-enactment and that the USDF was going to have an article about fjords in their magazine, as breed of the month.

Website: Jeff expressed great appreciation for all of the work that Jeanne had put in to the website. The site now includes musings on various topics written by Lisa Pederson. The current article is on safety and helmets. Everyone is encouraged to read it.

Elections: The Board discussed the upcoming nominations' deadlines and the need to encourage members to run. There will be three open positions. Curt Pierce will be completing his second term and cannot run again. Jeff Pederson's term has expired but he is eligible to run for another term. Nancy Newport is finishing the term previously held by [Susan Cargill??] but will not run since she will serve as the NFHR Executive Director next year.

Evaluation Committee: Curt said that it had been hard for the evaluation committee to get together so they had not had a meeting. They did conduct a TD training via Skype. Nancy and Jeanne participated in the training and said it was great because they were able to ask questions and get answers from the Evaluation Committee members and from evaluator. Beth Beymer who they reported was particularly helpful with answering questions. The Board discussed the role of the Evaluation Coordinator. Mike May previously performed this job, as part of the Registrar/Executive Director duties. Dan Watanabe is the current Evaluation Coordinator. The Board expressed some concern about whether Dan had been given sufficient guidance on the various duties involved, which include assigning the evaluators, arranging their transportation and hotels, and coordinating with the sponsoring club to be sure everything necessary was done to run an evaluation smoothly. The Board discussed whether it could afford to pay a stipend to whoever served as Evaluation Coordinator. Dan had graciously agreed to do it as a volunteer this year.

All evaluations but the Greeley evaluation were cancelled this year. Due to the last minute need to replace one of the evaluators, the evaluation would begin 1 ½ days earlier than scheduled. Wayne Hipsley agreed on short notice to come, but due to other show obligations, had to leave Colorado by Friday morning to get to [Ohio]. So, instead of having the evaluation on Thursday and Friday, followed by a RMFHC show on Saturday, the evaluation would start on Wednesday evening and continue through late on Friday. The show would be on Saturday. Jeanne Poirier, Beth Beymer and other members of the Rocky Mountain Fjord Horse Club worked incredibly hard to rearrange all schedules and facilities in order to make the evaluation possible. Those who had signed up, including those traveling from far away, had all been able to change their schedules with less than a week's notice.

Discussion was held regarding the various responsibilities of those involved in an evaluation. The Board determines where evaluations will be held, usually after receiving a request from a local club or group to sponsor one. The Evaluation Committee makes policy recommendations to the Board and the Evaluation Coordinator is responsible for carrying out duties assigned by the Evaluation Committee, pursuant to Board approved policy. Mike May mentioned that historically, the evaluation committee had been the best working of all committees. (Secretary's note: This year, the education committee, specifically Ardeth Obenauf, has done a fantastic job.)

FHI Committee: We're waiting for the FHI annual meeting minutes.

Finance: Nancy had distributed a detailed profit and loss statement, noting that the picture is grim, that we need to increase our revenues and that memberships should start coming in November. The Board agreed that Jeanne and Nancy should be authorized to use a debit card for NFHR transactions.

Membership & Outreach: Beth Gerst is overseas and the rest of the Board expressed their envy of her trip to Norway.

Recognized Awards: Linda Syverson-Kerr advised Howard that she shipped all of the rewards information and documents to Ann Crandall. Mike May mentioned that the Board should raise the price of some of the awards. The prices were set years ago and the costs of the awards have increased in the interim.

Youth Committee: Samantha Poirier has created a Facebook page for young (in age or heart) fjord enthusiasts and has posted lots of photos.

Old Business:

Educational Forum and Face to Face Board meeting: Many of the Board members want to attend the Educational Forum so the Face to Face won't be held at the same time. Board members will pay their own registration fees for the forum. The Board will meet just before the forum starts, or maybe on Friday night and will elect the new officers. The rest of the Board business will be conducted at meeting after the forum is over. Ardeth offered to host the meeting at her home.

New Business:

1. Transfer Issue. The Board discussed a registration transfer issue which Jeanne had brought to their attention. Mike May was familiar with the history of the horse's registration and had sent the file to Jeanne. Jeff had been in touch with the horse's new owners. The mare, which had originally been registered in Canada, had been registered with the NFHR many years ago, [but another horse later turned up with the chip that had apparently been assigned to this horse.]

There is a DNA match for the sire but not for the dam. The new owners were excited about having a fjord that they planned to use primarily for trail riding. Mike May said that several years ago, when NFHR first learned of the discrepancy, he had spoken to [then owner or original breeder?] of the horse, and explained that the DNA test showed the dam was not as initially reported but the situation was never resolved. The Board agreed that, because the horse had previously been registered by the NFHR and because the new owners were not aware of the DNA issue, the registration transfer would be accepted and the horse would be registered. The papers would include a notation that the dam was unknown. The new owners would be advised that, no offspring of the horse could be registered until the horses' dam could be verified. The Board asked Jeanne to express its apologies for any confusion to the new owners and to welcome them to the Registry. Jeff will talk to them and Jeanne will send them a letter.

2. Issues relating to the Evaluation Committee and the upcoming Greeley evaluation were discussed.

The Board began discussion of the letter it had received an NFHR member expressing serious concerns about the ways in which a Board member had behaved with respect to evaluation plans. The NFHR member requested an apology from the Board member. Members of the Board also mentioned serious concerns about the ways in which the Board member had spoken to our new Registrar. Curt Pierce said that the facts as reported in the letter were not accurate, that he had not had time to respond to the letter and that he refused to discuss it at this meeting. He then hung up and left the meeting. The Board continued discussion of the letter, the member's behavior and issues relating to organization of the Greeley evaluation, and determined that the Evaluation Committee must meet before the next meeting. Nancy suggested that the Evaluation Committee prepare a job description for the Evaluation Coordinator for the Board's review at the next meeting. The Committee currently includes Curt Pierce, Phil Odden, Sophie Fielder and Barb Lynch. It is a joint committee with the NFHR and the Canadian club. Mike noted that Curtis has a copy of the agreement between the two groups.

Howard will participate in the Evaluation Committee meeting. He will direct the Committee to provide a report and proposed Evaluation Coordinator job description to the Board before the next meeting. The Greeley evaluation will start on July 28, the day after this meeting, and Howard will talk to those involved after the evaluation is over to get specific suggestions for the Committee.

Howard again directed the Board's attention to the Code of Conduct and Ethics policy and reiterated that violation of either is grounds for removal from the Board. In particular, it was noted that discussions of individuals or other topics held at any Board meeting are to be considered confidential unless specifically included in the minutes, and therefore are not to be shared with non-Board members

The Board ratified its policy of no tolerance for harassment or unprofessional behavior by any Board member to any NFHR member or employee, or to the public when the Board member is acting as a member. Beth German will review the current Ethics Policy and coordinate with Howard regarding any suggested revisions to present to the Board for consideration at the next meeting.

Jeanne suggested that it might be better to have the Registrar serve as Evaluation Coordinator, as Mike had done in the past. She explained that all of the information needed was in the data base maintained by the Registrar.

The meeting was adjourned. The date for the next meeting has not yet been set.