

## 10-17-11 NFHR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting Convened at 6: 00 p.m. MST

Members Present: Jeff Pedersen, Howard Fiedler, Teressa Kandianis, Beth German, Ardeth Obenauf, Kathleen Jesse, Bill Coli, Sue Plein, John Crawford. Executive Director Nancy Newport and Registrar Jeanne Poirier present. No Absences.

### **REPORTS**

President's Report: Jeff reported that the Herndon evaluation was successful. Overall, things are going well. Jeff advised that he believes that the NFHR has turned a corner but he cautioned that we should still be prepared for a tough year next year. He noted that having less frequent meetings and conducting some business by email saved the NFHR conference call costs.

Executive Director Report: Nancy reported that she is pleased with how things are going. She would like to see more effort put into promotion of the Breed. Nancy distributed and reviewed the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement. NFHR has current assets totaling \$38,064.49, including \$15,465.74 in a Bank of America CD, \$12,598.75 in the US Bank checking account and \$10,000.00 the US Bank money market account. She noted that the Herald editors have not yet been paid for the last three issues but will be paid as soon as they submit an invoice. She also went over the positive financial report on the Herndon evaluation.

Registrar's Report: Jeanne reported 843 memberships, 203 transfers and 94 registrations for 2011 to date. Teressa pointed out that the decrease in membership numbers may be misleading because in 2010, because of our dire financial straits, we sent out renewal notices earlier than in the past and many 2011 memberships were received before the end of last year. This would mean our memberships increased in 2011 from 2010. Jeanne mentioned that several new memberships have come in lately. This may be due in, in part, to inquiries she's received from people who want to register or transfer a horse. She sends them a copy of the Herald along with the registration/transfer information. Jeanne reported that Curtis Pierce and Margaret Bogie worked really hard to make the Herndon evaluation a success. She hopes there will be more evaluations next year and is excited about helping coordinate them. Jeanne receives lots of phone calls about various issues every week, and mentioned one from someone asking about mane trimming. The Board discussed the possibility of Ardeth preparing a new mane trimming video, showing different styles.

Treasurer's and Finance Committee Report: Teressa thanked Nancy for making the books much more helpful and thorough, noting that we can now see detail member by member and product by product. The memberships are also identified as either new or a renewal and by type of membership. We can see detail on DNA kits ordered and registrations paid. This is huge in helping to analyze our financial status. Year by year comparisons are still a bit iffy, but as time goes on, we are going to see benefits from being able to look at and compare meaningful and consistent details. As far as our financial status right now, Teressa reported we are in the black. She warned against irrational exuberance though, reporting that although we have successfully cut costs and believes that we can't cut too much more out of our budget and need now to concentrate on increasing income.

Email Motions: Beth moved to ratify the email motions listed below, Teresa seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved:

1. Howard's motion, seconded by John to make NFHR banners for each regional club.
2. Teresa's motion, seconded by Howard to approve a one day evaluation in Herndon.
3. Ardeth's motion, seconded by Beth to approve the May 9, 2011 BoD meeting minutes.

Elections Committee: The elections committee nominated Bill Coli, John Crawford and Wendy Bauwens to serve on the Director positions currently filled by Bill, John and Howard. Howard is prevented by term limits from running again until he sits out for at least one year. Howard enthusiastically referred the Board to Wendy's biography, mentioning that she is an educator and biologist who lives in Montana, has operated a therapeutic riding stable with fjords in Alaska and teaches riding and driving in Clyde Park, Montana where she drives a pair of gray fjords. Discussion was held regarding the extensive efforts made by Howard, Nancy, Jeanne and Teresa to identify additional good candidates. Teresa moved to accept the slate of candidates, Ardeth seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Wendy will be invited to attend the December meeting.

Evaluation Committee: Sue reported on the Herndon evaluation where Beth Beymer and Pat Wolfe served as evaluators. The Midwest evaluation was cancelled. Jeff will talk with Committee Chair Dan Watanabe soon. Discussion was held regarding the role of the Executive Committee, which serves as an advisory committee to the Board which sets policy and makes final decisions regarding committee actions. Jeanne mentioned tightened security at customs on the U.S. Canadian border, particularly for entering the U.S.. The Board discussed the need for evaluators or others coming from Canada to be aware of and comply with relevant laws for entry into the U.S., including the possible need by Evaluators for a Visa or work permit to allow them to be paid for their services as an Evaluator in the U.S. The Executive Committee will meet on the evening of October 23, 2011 to discuss Evaluation Committee issues in greater detail.

FHI Committee: Beth reported that as of a few weeks ago, the FHI had not yet approved the minutes of its annual board meeting or taken any action on the resolutions made. She will contact Beth Beymer for an update.

Herald Committee: Howard mentioned that costs have decreased because fewer issues are printed, each with fewer pages. More full page ads are needed. The Friends of the Herald program has been very successful.

MOPE: Ardeth deferred to Nancy & Jeanne's reports regarding membership. For promotions, she mentioned that they are close to getting the display booth. Bill hopes to have it in time for the November 11<sup>th</sup> Equine Affair in Springfield, Mass. where two fjords will be competing. Ardeth hopes to have the driving award, which will be a participation award, in place by the beginning of 2012. Show subsidies were discussed, only the two Pacific Northwest shows sought and received the subsidies this year.

Awards: Howard reported that Anne Crandall is running the program and doing a great job. The awards people seem to be the most interested in are the excellence and versatility awards. These

take years to complete. The BoD would like Anne to write an article for the Herald about the awards program.

Website/Marketplace: Jeanne will put information about the annual meeting on the website. Marketplace sales are slow but steady right now, Jeff expects they will increase with holiday shopping.

Youth: Bill reported there is no new activity.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Educational Forum: Sue gave a detailed report on the plans for the educational forum. She's lined up many promising speakers and is working on a bus trip to the Mall of America. The BoD meeting will be held after the forum.
2. Survey for Media Kit: Bill has not had a chance to prepare this yet.
3. Youth Scholarships: MOPE was asked to look into ways to structure these so they don't conflict with the Bylaws, which require that members be 18 or older.
4. Fjord Foundation: Howard sent the information he had to Teresa and will follow up again with Neil Sorum to try to find out more information and Teresa will see what else she can do to help get it in order. Although the Foundation is separate from the NFHR, BoD members would like to see the Foundation in place to provide educational and other charitable services outside the NFHR's mission.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board discussed the possibility of suspending membership privileges in the event of a seriously delinquent account and the provisions in the Bylaws regarding terminating or suspending a membership. The Executive Committee will discuss this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 MST after a motion made by Teresa, seconded by John and approved unanimously by the Board.