

American Milking Devon Cattle Association

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting

Tunbridge VT, May 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President John Hall at 10:00 AM with 19 people present.

Reports

President: John Hall reported on the association activities over the last year. The 2017 fall gathering was held in Williamsburg Virginia in conjunction with the Livestock Conservancy's Conference. Four directors and the registrar met with the membership and discussed current issues and briefly touched on various topics of interest including the recent grant, the upcoming Virginia State Fair, the 2017 fall gathering, the card grading event and it's video being produced.

Minutes: Andrew Van Ord provided the minutes of the May 13, 2017 meeting. A MOTION (Victoria Ames/Dexter Randall) to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer: John Hall presented a written report showing a year-end balance of \$15,206.20 in checking with an additional \$16,258.54 in CDs. John's report included a line-by-line itemization of the years various expenses totaling \$7,126.47. A MOTION (Victoria Ames/Tom Slater) to accept the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

Genetics: No report given.

Registration: Bonnie Hall provided a written report indicating that in 2017, 213 females and 82 males were registered. 177 were under one year of age and 118 were over one year of age. 193 animals were transferred and 7 lost certificates were issued. Bonnie's report also showed that 20 straws of semen were sold.

Membership: Bonnie Hall reported that there were 133 members in 2017 including 3 life-time, 5 junior, and 5 associate members.

Communications: Andrew Van Ord reported that on the direction of last year's meeting the association had started an official Face Book page which currently has over 200 followers. The Milking Devon Cattle Yahoo page has 62 members. Many members have requested association brochures to promote the breed at farmer's markets, fairs and cattle shows. Andrew provided more and encouraged members to use them. He will mail them to those members who request them. A 32 page children's book titled "Huck's Way Home" and authored by Kristina Rodanas is in development. The book is about the Billing's Farm's new yoke of American Milking Devon working steers and is planned to be available by Christmas. Andrew thanked Lawrence Gilley for his work with the website and Tom Slater's service as editor of the newsletter.

Website: Lawrence Gilley provided a written report that showed that the milkingdevons.org website received a total of 13,227 visits in 2017. 61% of visitors had not previously visited the website. The website consistently shows up at or near the top of search engine results.

DNA: No proposal was made. Steve Burton reported that he received very little interest from the membership. Shannon Rice-Nichols offered information from Neogen for those members wanting to do DNA testing on their own.

Regional Groups: Tom Slater reported on the regional group proposal and also reported that no feedback from the membership had been received. The discussion that followed was very positive but concerns about unforeseen issues that could be created. It was also noted that a minimum number of members should be established so that an individual wouldn't be able to establish themselves as the group. A MOTION (Sue Randal/ Dexter Randal) to adopt the Regional group proposal with two additions: 1) Each regional standing committee must include a minimum of 10% of the voting members within that region to be established and conduct business. 2) The regional standing committees shall be reviewed annually.

Grant: John Hall reported that the AMDCA had assisted Allison Martin in applying for and receiving a grant through the Livestock Conservancy. The terms of the grant are approximately \$113,000 over two years. The scope of the grant will include herd book analysis, collection of semen, collection of production data and breed promotion.

Fall Gathering: John Hall called for suggestion for a 2018 fall gathering. Suggestions included the Livestock Conservancy's convention to be held in Indiana, the State Fair of Virginia, and possibly an event in Canada.

State Fair of Virginia: It was reported that the State Fair of Virginia would have an American Milking Devon class to be judged by Drew Conroy. Drew will also be conducting a card grading event at the fair.

Card Grading video: John Hall reported that the card grading event held at Colonial Williamsburg in 2017 was videotaped by Backyard Green Films and is currently being edited.

Sue and Clayton Randal expressed interest in donating stored semen to the AMDCA including Mountain Pasture Gulliver, Sunny Knoll's Anniversary, and Sunny Knoll's Gabe.

Election of directors: The results of the election for directorship are as follows: Kendy Sawyer 1, Bruce Farr 26, Dexter Randal 27, Jeremy Michaud 27.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM.

Following the meeting Drew Conroy and Ray Ludwig each spoke about the use and training of oxen.

Andrew Van Ord, Secretary