Approved Board of Directors Minutes

7:00pm via Zoom 2/15/21

Present: Dave Kemp, Darrell Fisk, Andrew Chisholm, Alisha Powell, Chris Olsen, Sue Folsom

Absent: Charlie Hunt

Meeting called to order at 7:11pm.

* **Minutes from 1/14/21** – Dave asked if everyone had read minutes and asked for changes and corrections. None we made so Dave made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Darrell Fisk seconded. The minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.
* **Publicist recruitment** - We have two candidates to replace Brenda Noiseux – Heather Lancey and Kate Ziehm with Moring Ag Clips. After discussion between the board members it was decided that Morning Ag Clips looked like they had more experience with the type of work the NHMPA would need. This would allow them to get up to speed more quickly with a little help from Brenda with the transition. Darrell Fisk made a motion to go accept Morning Ag Clips proposal. Andy Chisholm seconded. The board voted unanimously in favor of having Morning Ag Clips as our publicist.
* **Letter from Commission Jasper about NHMPA member on Board for NH Ag in the Classroom** – Commissioner Jasper was looking for a candidate from the NHMPA to fill a required spot on the NH Ag in the Classroom board which is currently vacant. Andy volunteered to fill that slot on the NHAITC board.
* **Seal of Quality Presentation** was a success although there were barely a dozen signed up. There was feedback through emails thanking us for the presentation. Janis Conner from the Dept of Ag did a great job presenting and was able to answer questions directly from members who were signed in. Some members wanted the presentation at another time than during the day offered, but we will have it uploaded to the website for all members to access on demand. Chris Olsen has agreed to post it under the News and Events section of the Homepage.
* **Tax status change 501c6 vs 501c3** – update – Sue filled in the board on a conversation she had with the lawyer, Doug McDonald, Chris Olsen referred us to about this possible change. It was more complicated than we expected about defining the umbrella your 501c3 would cover and whether some of our current activities like fair sales would not be allowable under that change. As well as possibly container sales, a better defined educational purpose would be needed, open to the public would be required. His suggestion was that we keep the 501c6 and create a new 501c3. After a bit more discussion about how to move forward Chris Olsen said he’d be willing to look into this and contact Good Work Seacoast.org for some assistance. Andy volunteered to work with Chris on this as well. Sue will forward the bylaws and letter of incorporation for the museum to them to research.
* **Budget for Promotion for Spring Sugar Season** – the board reviewed the proposed Maple Month budget put together by Brenda. Dave’s question was whether this was for Brenda or Morning Ag Clips. But the consensus was to use the budget with some modifications and have Brenda and Morning Ag Clips coordinate the publicity. Also, make sure to have an email go out asking members to update their listings for 2021 Maple Month. Chris will draft an email for this purpose. The budget for the Maple Month promotion is $3,000. The board discussed this amount. Darrell made a motion to accept the proposed Maple Month budget of $3,000. Chris Olsen seconded. The board voted unanimously in favor.
* **Farm & Forest donation** – signed up NHMPA for virtual expo through NH Dept of Ag but they were asking for donations to help support the program even though it was a virtual event. After some discussion Darrell Fisk made a motion to make a donation to the NH Farm and Forest for $200. Alisha Powell seconded. The board voted unanimously in favor.
* **Financial update/draft budget** - Sue sent out a draft budget and Dave asked the board if they had reviewed it. Chris Olsen was able to screen share the budget details for the board to look over. This was submitted for the board to review as a template for a working budget when it can be presented and voted on at the annual meeting. Chris Olsen made a motion to approve the draft budget, not to exceed the amount indicated without another vote. The board approved the draft budget unanimously.
* **Website** – costs for upkeep, database purge, new proposal for services – The January invoice for extra service hours was discussed as well as our need to set up a new two year contract with our web hosting company, Loud Canvas. Sue will continue to get information from Loud Canvas on the new proposal and the January bill and inform the board.
* **Annual Meeting** - **May meeting speakers; Carlisle rules question from a member** – Sue had a member ask if the attendance requirement for the Carlisle trophy would be waived due to the Covid situation and that they would be hesitant to attend the May meeting. Will the board allow people who place in the Carlisle to be absent from the meeting but still retain their spot in the Carlisle competition results? Sue made a motion to suspend the requirement of being present at the annual meeting in order to place in the Carlisle competition for this year due to the Covid pandemic. Alisha Powell seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Dave asked for thoughts on speakers for the annual meeting. Various people to approach for the meeting were discussed. It was decided to ask Peter Gregg if he would speak. UNH will be asked and maybe the Dept of Ag.
* **Committee Assignments** – Promotion, Financial/Budget, Fairs, Containers – Dave commented that we weren’t sure how long Bill Cheney will remain as Container Chairman after stepping down as a member of the Board. Darrell said he’d be willing to remain as Fair Chairman.
* **Board engagement** – Dave asked if we’ve got enough board engagement to spread out the work the board needs to do. It seems for now that there is an increased level of participation.
* **Regional Zoom meetings** – It was discussed and a decision was made to hold three Zoom meetings that members could sign into and find out what the NHMPA is doing. Chris will set up three meetings and they will go out in an email through Mailchimp. Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Olsen seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.