NHMPA 1/15/22 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in person at The Common Man Inn & Spa

Members Present: Dave Kemp, Andrew Chisholm, Alisha Powell (via Facetime), Darrell Fisk, Charles Hunt.

Members Absent: Chris Olsen, Doug Byam

Meeting called to order at 1:49 pm by Andy Chisholm.

1. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes/Upcoming Meeting Dates**
2. 1/11 Monthly Meeting Minutes: Not reviewed.
3. Next Monthly meeting date: Tues 2/1.
4. **Board seats/Standing committees**

MAC said they are willing to take on the bookkeeping and accounts payable and receivable responsibilities, but they still need someone to take on actual Treasurer responsibilities – someone to give MAC the ok to generate checks (Loud Canvas, MAC, Bacon Jug) etc. Dave showed the template email that he has been sending to Sue to approve expenses; Andy said we could keep doing what has been done up to this point.

There are still three vacant Board positions: Dave thinks Bud could be talked into returning to the Board now that the health issues plaguing him and his wife are reduced. If Bud comes back, then we need to replace Sue and Andrew. Andy will talk with Bud about returning to the Board. The Board also picked up Alisha’s brother, Nate, so that would leave just one more vacancy.

Alisha and Andy have 2 more years to their terms (thru 2024), Darrell’s term goes through 2023. For Doug, Charles, and Chris, two of them get 2-year terms and the other gets a 1-year term. Charles will take the 1-year term so he stays on the Board through 2023, and Doug and Chris get 2-year terms, running through 2024.

Darrell nominated Andy to be President with a second by Dave – motion passed. Alisha will remain as Secretary since her term just started in May 2021. The Board will table elections of VP and Treasurer until the meeting on February 1.

Dave will continue as IMSI rep – he will give the report at the Annual meeting.

Standing committees are required to have a Board member on each:

* 1. Budget, Finance and Audit – Andy and Stephanie
  2. Container – Darrell (will rejoin)
  3. Education & Mentoring – Andy and Alisha
  4. Promotion – Andy, Alisha, Stephanie, and Margaret (MAC)
  5. Sales & Fairs – Andy, Alisha, Bud and Amy Lamere – Alisha already talked with Cheshire County Fair about being there again.

1. **Update on Website**

Charlie Levesque said he will help with website. Alisha’s brother Nathan wants to help with the website.

Dave asked about moving all members’ “pages” to the new nhmaplemap.com and .org – will that free up any space on the Association website? Andy said creating the new sites at nhmaplemap.org and .com will help alleviate some of the issues on the existing site. Then we can make the Association website more member focused. Chris Olsen had acknowledged at the January 11 Board meeting that the existing website was supposed to be for Maple Weekend only, not for membership.

The Board asked that MAC continue to send eBlasts for members to update their listings for 2022 Maple Weekend.

Charlie asked about making it possible for members to research and buy containers on future website.

The Board asked that the MAC mailing address be added to NHMPA website. Andy talked about getting an Association PO box in Concord. It has been discussed before but was never done. Andy will find out what the cost is to get a box in Concord and have the mail forwarded to a Board member’s local address.

1. **Membership**

Andy discussed how mailing a paper membership form could generate some revenue by having suppliers’ logos on the mailing. The Association could also provide reference information for members – NHSOQ, USDA, etc. The Board asked that paper forms be mailed to anyone who didn’t pay in 2021 plus back to 2019.

The Board discussed the possibility of adding a new membership category – supporter of maple? Also possibly a young farmers or youth membership. These could help get more people involved if they have the same interest even if they aren’t full-fledged producers. Membership categories are not in the Bylaws so no vote would be needed for a Bylaws change to add these categories. A difference for these categories besides charging a lower rate is giving them nonvoting status. Also consider a tiered membership system based on tap count, which would have to be on the honor system. Adding the categories and showing members what the Association is doing for them, especially close to sugaring season, can help increase membership.

Andy suggested a membership committee – someone to respond to emails from members, answer questions, etc.

1. **Regional meetings:** Stuart & Johns will host a meeting on Tuesday February 15 for producers in the southwestern part of the state, Chisholm Farm will host on February 8 for producers in the southeast, Alisha will contact Pat at Intervale Pancake House to host an event February 10 or 17 for producers in the central part of the state, and Andy will contact Dave Fuller about hosting an event for producers in the northern part of the state on February 10 or 17. The meetings were a recap of Annual Meeting and a chance for producers to discuss syrup prices so the Association can give data to NH Dept of Ag for their Market Update.. The host charges a reasonable fee to provide coffee and donuts.

Next meeting planned for Tuesday 2/1/22 at 7pm via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned 2:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Kelly, Morning Ag Clips