

DRAFT

American Milking Devon Cattle Association

Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting

Tunbridge VT, May 7, 2016

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

Reports

President: John Hall reported that as a result of last years meeting the Board had purchased an insurance policy and that the contributions to the Cyril Green & Diaurna Kibbe Memorial Scholarship Fund had been made. The Association did not have a fall gathering last year but will be having one this year in conjunction with The Livestock Conservancy's 2016 National Conference in Amherst Massachusetts. John reported that the Board is working with Plymouth Plantation and Red Devon USA to celebrate 400 years of Devons in America in 2023.

Minutes: Andrew Van Ord provided the minutes of the May 8, 2015 meeting. A MOTION (Ray Clark/Bonnie Hall) to accept the amended minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer: John provided a written report showing a year end balance of \$13,276.43 in checking plus \$16,146.82 in CDs. John provided a line-by-line explanation of various expense items totaling \$5,002.09. A MOTION (Ray Clark/Tom Slater) to accept the Treasurer's report was passed unanimously.

Communications: Andrew Van Ord thanked Tom Slater for accepting the responsibilities of the newsletter editor and thanked Shelly Oswald for her hard work as the previous newsletter editor. He recognized Jeremy Michaud for his work organizing an "Across the Fence" episode featuring American Milking Devons and produced by the University of Vermont Extension. He pointed out that Drew Conroy has published several articles featuring American Milking Devons. The website had 11938 visits in 2015. Nearly a 20% increase from 2014. The Milking Devon Cattle group on Yahoo has 51 members and the Facebook page currently has over 700 likes. Andrew thanked the American Kerry Cattle Association for helping to promote American Milking Devons at the 2015 Mother Earth News Fair in Seven Springs Pennsylvania. He also recognized the efforts of Kendy Sawyer and Jeremy Michaud for promoting the breed at their events.

Registration: Bonnie Hall reported that over the past year, 150 females and 45 males have been registered. 185 cattle have also been transferred and 6 lost certificates were issued.

Membership: Bonnie Hall reported that 17 new members have joined the association over the last year. Bonnie also reported that splitting up the membership responsibilities had caused more issues and increased the workload. A MOTION (Bruce Farr/Tom Slater) to consolidate the membership duties under Bonnie Hall passed.

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor Tom Slater explained that the newsletter will continue to have four editions a year. Articles will be related to draft, dairy and beef. He asked for members to respond to the articles with their own thoughts and experiences so they may be included in a new section called OVER THE BARNYARD FENCE. He also suggested that members can help by submitting suggestions for topics, AMD media hits, events, AMD related recipes, photos, and historical articles. Submissions need to be directly AMD related. The newsletter's purpose is to promote the breed and not individual breeders. The editor reserves the write to edit any submissions in accordance to this policy. The newsletter will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors prior to its release.

Genetics: Ray Clark reported no new news.

Election of Directors

John Hall reported the results as tallied by Bruce Farr, and Steve Burton.

The election results: John Hall 22, Tom Slater 17, Richard Larson 12, and Dan Singletary 1. John Hall, and Tom Slater stand elected to the Board for a three-year term.

General Discussion/New Business

Aged registrations: The Registrar still routinely receives applications for registration of aged animals. Sometimes several generations are registered at the same time. Situations like this complicate the process and raise questions about the accuracy of the application. President John Hall suggested that the membership consider keeping the \$5 registration fee for cattle under a year old but raise the registration fees progressively as the cattle get older. The members in attendance were favorable to this idea and maximum fees of \$50-\$100 were suggested for older animals. John Wheelock suggested any fees over \$5 collected be awarded to the registrar. Lawrence Gilley suggested a grace period until December 31 2017 and making animals ineligible for registration after their fifth birthday. Bill Blaiklock suggested requiring the Board of Directors approval to register animals past their fifth birthday. A MOTION (John Wheelock/Bill Blaiklock) to enable the Board of Directors to use these suggestions to make a new policy passed unanimously.

Election ballots: Bonnie Hall reported that each year a few members who wish to vote, pay their dues too late to receive a ballot. She suggested a deadline to receive a ballot. A MOTION (Ray Clark/Bill Blaiklock) that members not in good standing by April 1, will not receive a ballot passed unanimously.

DNA Typing: Steve Burton suggested that the AMDCA consider DNA typing. He suggested that it could alleviate many registration issues like faded tattoos and parental verification. After a discussion questioning cost, implementation, and legalities, the topic was tabled and John Hall asked to have a detailed proposal submitted for the Board of Directors to review.

Tattoo numbers: Shannon Rice-Nichols inquired why tattoo numbers are not included in the herd book. President John Hall explained that the tattoo information is not included in order to limit fraud as anyone can tattoo any animal to falsify it's identity.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Speaker: Brent Beidler spoke about his experience producing grass fed milk.

Andrew Van Ord, Secretary