

Large Black Hog Association

Meeting Minutes
8/22/2009

Present: Kay Wolfe, Linda Weems, David Dalan, Rima Kittley, Gregg Wetterman, Cathy Cox, Brian Wright

Next meeting: TBA

Meeting was called to order @ 11:00 AM CST, 8/22/2009 by Kay Wolfe, President.

Roll call was performed by David Dalan, Secretary/Treasurer. Meeting was held via Skype Conference call.

I. Presidents Report

We're growing rapidly. The hobby farms article generated a lot of traffic and was a great investment. Kay complimented Rima on all her hard work.

III. Board Member/Officer Reports

Nothing specific to report.

IV. Registrar Report

Biggest challenge right now is chasing down missing paperwork for pigs that need registration.

We now have 44 members, 50 users on the forum.

209 Hogs are registered in the database and there are more in the queue.

Bank balance information was passed on to board. Members may access financial information (bank balance) by contacting the secretary David Dalan at dalan@pocketinet.com

Multiple users on the board have access to the breed software. Only one user at a time, so access is going to need to be scheduled. Software is backed up.

A copy of the database is going to be delivered (annually) to the ALBC. A statement of non-commercial use only will be drawn up by David Dalan and must be agreed to by the ALBC. While the information is readily available to the membership, any monetary gain from that data should benefit the LBHA.

Rima has been contacted by the SVF foundation that is interested in collecting and preserving rare breed semen.

V. Registrar Change

Rima introduced Brian Wright to the board. Brian has been recommended by Rima to take over the Registrar duties as they now are more than Rima can handle in her present life/work balance. The board decided to appoint Brian to the Registrar position, with a 6 month trial period. In the event that the trial is completed successfully, the appointment will be for the minimum 4 years as specified in the bylaws. Unanimously adopted by the board.

Registrar fee changes. After some discussion it was proposed that the litter fee remain 5\$ and that the individual pig registration increase to \$10 (\$5 as noted in bylaws, additional \$5 via board policy). Motion proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

Registrar will remain an uncompensated position.

VI. LBHA Sponsored Events (Meet and Swap, etc.)

Various event options were discussed including the meet and swap proposed in the LBHA forums. There is a general interest in having an educational event featuring a master breeder who could teach new farms how to select hogs. ALBC has recommended a professor who may be willing to perform this role.

Several board members would like to see this held in conjunction with a major stock events to get maximum exposure for the breed. Locations such as Denver, Fort Worth and perhaps a location in OK were forwarded as good locations. Dave commented that it makes the most sense to have the event where we can get the most exposure, rather than trying to accommodate the geographical distribution of the membership.

Maybe it should be done in concert with the ALBC annual meetings.

Kay volunteered to head up the committee to plan an LBHA endorsed event. Contact Kay at wolfe1@getgo.in.net for more information or to help out.

VII. Breed Standard Committee

Topic of the breed standard was discussed. Kay mentioned that having breeders better educated about selecting good stock is probably a better option than a more detailed, written standard. Ideally this would happen during an LBHA educational event. Board discussed the current standards and general consensus was that the existing standard was sufficient and there was no need to study the matter further. A motion to keep the standard as-is was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously.

VIII. Carcass Study

ALBC has made contact with the LBHA concerning interest in a carcass study. The general idea would be to gather weaned pigs from a variety of breeds, raise them in identical conditions (outdoors, grass, whatever) and then butcher/evaluate the various carcasses. The board is very interested in the study, but it is in the concept phase only. Kay commented that it would help us evaluate how well our LBH are tailored for pork production. There is no formal plan put forward by the ALBC, but the board will express interest in the study and form a committee if the proposal comes to pass.

X. Other Items/New Business

Payment to David Dalan in the amount of \$20 to reimburse costs of Skype Conference call. *Approved Unanimously.*

Kay noted that right now we have a lot of folks focused on selling breeding stock. We need to continue to support this growth while at the same time work on the marketing of Large Black Pork. The key will be to have some system for producer consistency. For example, If a consumer buys a LBH raised in a pen, on pure corn the output is not likely to be as positive as pastured raised LBH. That consumer will probably not come back to try LBH again if the experience is negative.

Proposal to make electronic voting allowable for all association voting. Paper ballots would still be available for members without computers/internet access. *Forwarded, seconded and passed unanimously.*

Next meeting: *September/October*

X. Adjournment 12:00 PM CST

I confirm that the votes and results are accurately recorded above.

David Dalan
Secretary/Treasurer
Large Black Hog Association