

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CANADIAN GOAT SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 8, 2020
ANCASTER FAIRGROUNDS, ANCASTER, ONTARIO**

The meeting was called to order by President, Sandy Howell shortly after 10:00 am.

Nineteen CGS members plus guests from the University of Guelph, OMAFRA and the University of Guelph were present.

Members were also given the opportunity to participate in the meeting via Zoom if their 2020 membership had been paid by the time of the meeting.

Members physically present identified themselves.

The agenda was reviewed and approved on a motion by Mark Keir, seconded by Beryl Johnson with additions of comments by Irene Farrow on fundraising and Sandy Howell on work with a Nigerian Dwarf action committee. *CARRIED.*

Minutes of the 2019 AGM on February 23, 2019 were circulated and reviewed as published in the Fall/Winter 2019 Quarterly.

One small error was noted in the minutes regarding the fact that Russell Gammon had never worked for Holstein Canada. Minutes were approved on a motion by Sue Mangan, seconded by Mark Keir, *CARRIED.*

Russell Gammon led a review of a very draft version of financial statements for CGS. At that point the draft statements were showing a potential loss of over \$19,000.

Members were not asked to vote upon the statements as they were far from final due to challenges with operations in 2019 and the early date for the AGM. Gammon did note that it appeared that there had been no challenges with inappropriate use of funds. There were an obvious number of questions and suggestions from members on how costs could be trimmed.

Sandy Howell, President reported on work done by Directors during the year and ongoing work to improve the financial health of the association and thanked all those who had provided assistance and input to the work of the Association during the previous year.

Announcements followed re the proposed West National Show on Vancouver Island in early August and the East National show at the RAWF in November.

Russell Gammon provided a detailed Secretary Manager's report which included the following:

- -Thanks to Tanya Vickers who provided administrative support in the CGS office in the latter part of the year; our team of four classifiers who had worked hard in the field with special thanks to Eugenia Carnegie who had stepped in on short notice to provide service in two regions.
- -Noted that there would be directors elections in BC, Sask and Man and Quebec in 2020.
- -Reported that work on strategic planning work had begun and would focus on there main areas: A. Development of a robust, user-friendly, accessibly, comprehensive database B. Growth of the Association and Communications C. Operations/Finances/Office functioning
- -Noted that publications in 2020 would include one Quarterly Magazine and three newsletters.
- -work would take place to have the proper, official measuring sticks and training for classifiers in using them.
- -RLB would be asked to review our financials rather than audit them.

- -CLRC'S AGM would be held in Calgary, Alberta in April. CGS reps would be Sandy Howell; Callum McLeod with Leila Cranswick as an alternate or third rep if CGS qualified to have a third rep. Sandy Howell would be a nominee for any open board positions.
- -The CGS Board had spent a great deal of time discussing the increase in unit charges of 17% at CLRC as of January 1, 2020 and the impact this increase would have on the CGS fee schedule and the level of business going forward. CGS would be requiring answers from CLRC on what efforts were being made to hold costs in line or reduce them now and in the future.
- -Thanks were extended to Eastgen for income to CGS from semen sales on three bucks in Eastgen's inventory.
- -The Board had engaged in discussions with Brian Sullivan on finding funding sources to support expansion of database capabilities in cooperation with industry partners including the University of Guelph, CLRC, beef, sheep and pork associations and others.
- -The Executive for 2020 would include Sandy Howell, President; Susan Frazer, First Vice-President; and Callum McLeod, Second Vice-President.
- -The 2021 AGM would be held in British Columbia in the first quarter of the year.
- -Gammon also presented changes to the fee schedule for CGS which the Board had approved at their meetings prior to the AGM. The changes were made to ensure that CGS had a margin above costs from CLRC in as many instances as possible. The changes stimulated many comments and questions from members about the level of the increases and how CLRC could cut costs in other areas.

Three working groups had been struck with Callum McLeod leading a comprehensive review of CGS by-laws; Susan Frazer leading a group studying the process for Judges training and licensing and Arnold Steeves leading on a review of show rules.

Marion Fraser, A member since 1977, spoke about the changing fortunes of her preferred breed Angoras and the registered goat industry over time.

In NEW BUSINESS Irene Farrow made a presentation on efforts being made by a number of members in Ontario to raise funds for CGS and to provide resources for development of a robust and useful database. Samples of logos for clothing were displayed and drew very positive response. Irene noted that other products might be created and sold to generate funds. She expressed a hope that the Board would follow due process in tendering for companies to quote on developing a full scale, highly functional database. Some members expressed the view that we should definitely be in contact with ADGA who had a very comprehensive data base and web site search function.

Members asked that decisions be made earlier on national show bids to better accommodate early season shows.

Meeting as adjourned on a motion by Mark Keir. *CARRIED.*

The meeting did break for lunch and was later followed by presentations on genetic improvement by Marlene Paibomesai of OMAFRA on the goat industry in Canada and opportunities for improvement and by Erin Massender of the University of Guelph on a genomic testing project for goats being led by the University.