

NYSLA Spring Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2015 at FLCC's Muller Field Station, Honeoye, NY

In attendance: Steve Mikloiche, LaVonne Mikloiche, Mary Reeder, John Reeder, Kevin Moynihan, Julie Miller, Jon Preston, Rob Spry, Chris Henning, Dave Engasser, Jason Miranda, Katie Miranda, Hunter Miranda, Gretchen Cicora, Chris Cicora, Peg Engasser, Andrea Robarge, Wally Robarge, Audrey Arber, Travis Ingerick, Tim Keech, Devin Merkeley, Eric Mance, Dan Storowitz, Alexis Halstead, Joe Francese, Jason McCadden, Cale Sigas, Mary Dodge, Nancy Keech.

President Rob Spry opened the meeting at 1:17 p.m. with remarks regarding his absence at shows and the fall meeting due to his shoulder injury. He began a review of last year's competitions.

Marathon was cancelled due to logistical issues.

Bath is being run by Matt Marks now. Julie Miller was present representing him. Wagner Lumber donated the wood which will be delivered mid-April. We would like to advertise their generous donation through the use of signs, announcer comments and possible crowd giveaways like Wagner Lumber Frisbees. The turning and sizing will be done May 3 by the silage pit and will require lots of volunteers. Please contact Matt if you can help. It was requested that NYSLA provide funds to feed the work crew. Tim stated that the original proposal by Matt Marks to pay a contact person \$125 was partially for that purpose. Julie said she needs 4 standing block stands. These will be provided by Julie, Matt, Dave and Wally if Kevin does not have the new ones constructed. Marty said FLCC has stands we could borrow. Rob said he could bring them. It was agreed we would try to have 8 stands to help keep the event running better. LaVonne will be announcing. Jason Miranda will be head judge. An axe throw judge is still needed. Julie shared emails between Bill Deba and Matt Marks regarding filming the Bath competition for airing on Canadian television and the request for NYSLA to pay for 5 hotel rooms for Bill and his crew. Matt wanted feedback from the membership before he replied. Julie reminded Members of when Bill filmed the Clarkson competition and raised the concern that filming would slow the show down even further. We tend to have 60-70 competitors and it is challenging to keep the show moving. It was agreed that we do not have the funds to pay for the hotels, but the Bath Chamber could be approached. Mary wondered if we would be asked to wear Echo shirts. It was agreed NYSLA shirts must be worn. Andrea suggested an Echo sponsor sticker would be acceptable. Devin remarked on the Bath site being a very small site as is, without the addition of cameras and crews. Nancy stated she received an email from Gary Hammond stating Mr. Deba will be filming the Owego show. Kevin and Peg suggested we ask for a donation towards prize money. Gretchen stated filming at the Tioga Fair would provide more space and more time. All agreed that Matt should propose a donation for prize money be made in order for Bill Deba to film this event.

Tioga Co. Fair will not have restrictions on number of competitors.

Hancock – Katie and Jason Miranda stated we will not be doing the boom run in the river as the Hancock Fire Dept. requested, but might do something similar in the pond they build for burling. The fire build event was a big hit and they will probably offer it again. They asked if you have any suggestions for new events or improvements, please let them know. Lavonne suggested they get the logs closer to the competition date so the wood is not so dry.

Churchville will take place as far as we know. There was no one representing the show at the meeting.

Stony Creek discussion revolved around money issues that have occurred over the past few years. LaVonne and Nancy as well as Jake Bederian have been in touch with the Stony Creek Chamber of Commerce (Ronda) to work this out. The show is August 9. They have added more events. LaVonne asked that full payment be received before the event. Peg Engasser asked if the event would be cancelled if payment wasn't received. It was decided we would not cancel this year as we believe past problems have been resolved. Julie Miller made a motion that if we are requiring this show to have payment in advance, this should be a procedure we follow for all competitions. Jon Preston seconded. All were in favor.

Macedon Center was represented by Chris Henning. Everything should be the same. If any new events are added, that will be decided closer to the competition date. LaVonne asked that the bleachers be moved back further from the competitors due to safety issues. Nancy Keech shared Suzanne Airy's information regarding Amateur Day. All participants will be required to pre-register this year due to wood procurement problems.

In a review of old business from the Fall Meeting:

Kevin Moynihan is waiting on price quotes for metal to make new standing block stands. He will work with Mr. Schreiner to weld the stands at no cost to NYSLA. Discussion was held regarding how much each stand should cost and how many to build. It was decided 4 stands are needed that can accommodate wood from an 8x8 up to a 13" round. Cost should run \$100 -\$200 each.

The request to allow the announcer to compete that Dave Johns requested was again discussed. It was asked if the announcers would split the job between Show 1 & Show 2. This is not usually possible because not all the events are run in both shows. The amount of time is not equal either. LaVonne reiterated the past policy that was created that the announcer is being paid to announce and needs to focus on that job. The person needs to make a choice to compete or announce. Jon Preston agreed it is too challenging to compete and announce and felt the current policy should stand. The members in attendance also agreed to leave the policy as is, the announcer and head judge will not compete when acting in those positions. Jason Miranda stated due to a back injury, he would be available to announce or head judge if needed. Chris Cicora raised the question as to why Dave Jewett competed when announcing at Churchville in 2014. In that unique case, NYSLA was not involved in payment of his position and the situation had been discussed by the Officers that day.

Peg Engasser demonstrated the use of the website WuFoo at the Fall Meeting and asked that everyone take a look over the winter so we could decide if NYSLA would like to use an on-line registration system for our competitions. Peg stated she would be willing to set up the registration form and create a spreadsheet of entries to be used by NYSLA for a fee of \$125 per show. Nancy wondered if the system might be prohibitive to members who do not have access to the internet or use credit cards as we currently have members who require mailing of form and do not have checking accounts. LaVonne stated we would have to generate a lot of additional income to pay for this service, both Peg's fee and the website fee to enable credit card transactions. The idea was left on the table for this season with the request that members please look at the website, www.wufoo.com and give Peg some feedback as to feasibility for the future.

Devin Merkley reported that he has had no luck so far in finding corporate sponsors to help increase payouts at shows. Peg thanked him for his efforts.

Steve and LaVonne showed us materials to incorporate in our new, safer hot saw guards. Rob, Wally, Dave, Peg stimulated discussion as to which materials and the proper layering of the materials would create the safest product. The Mikloiches will pursue this project creating stands sandwiching metal mesh with a synthetic substance that deadens and spreads the force of any projectile. The stands will have permanent feet attached and will be layered so that it won't matter which side is facing the competitor and will be a little wider than our existing stands. It was agreed to put a cap at a cost of \$500 to fabricate without further approval of the Officers and Board Members.

Chris Cicora's suggestion that we give a "show up" point (towards Overall) to each competitor at each show was discussed. The idea was to encourage those who compete at our shows, but do not earn money or points. This way they would not end up with zero points at the end of a season. The Pennsylvania Professional Lumberjack Organization uses this procedure. Andrea, Julie and others stated that everyone starts out not winning and it encourages you to train harder and improve your skills. Audrey, a new competitor, considers them "fake points" and did not feel it would encourage her. Having handicapped events and paying prize money further out would be more helpful to new competitors. It was agreed we would not change our current system.

Nancy Keech asked if there would be changes to the 2015 Competiton Rules. It was agreed none will be made.

The Trailer Hauling Schedule will be as follows:

- Virgil to Bath = Travis Ingerick
- Bath to Owego = Dave Engasser
- Owego to Hancock = Jason Miranda
- Hancock to Churchville to Stony Creek to Macedon Center = Dave Engasser

Dave Engasser reviewed the trailer contents over the winter and stated there are a lot of unnecessary items which take up space and weight. These include 15 chain binders, standing block dogs, stanchion dogs/pins and log roll equipment. Julie motioned Dave use his judgement to remove and store unnecessary equipment. All were in favor. Gary Hammond brought Dave a very old P.A. system. It was agreed this could be used by collegiate teams. There was also an old printer used by Russ McKittrick and Eileene Vroman that will be recycled.

New Business:

Steve Mikloiche proposed that NYSLA give the contact person an additional \$50 for feeding volunteers at wood turning events. He did not feel the contact person fee should have to be used for this purpose as the contact person spends an increasing amount of time travelling to and attending meetings and arranging for wood, etc. It was discussed that for some events, there is a donated meal provided (Macedon Center by the Holtz family), or wood turning is paid for (Stony Creek Chamber pays Brad Stevens) or the work crew is very small. Nancy suggested the contact person could submit a voucher to the Treasurer for reimbursement up to \$50. The motion was carried.

Nancy Keech shared contact form submissions via our website. Jennifer Tinelli requested a demonstration at the Triple R Camping Resort in August. David Brooks from the NYS Parks Dept., Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site requested NYSLA participate in the 2015 Canal Days in Fort Hunter, Montgomery County. Jennifer Barak requested statistics on the growth of our organization for segments on Good Morning America and in the New York Times. It was asked of the members if there is

interest in doing small shows/demonstrations as we do continue to get requests. There have been challenges in Officers not responding to emails. Peg suggested all requests be emailed to the entire membership. The Schoharie Crossing request will be forwarded to the Cobleskill team and will be told we would be interested next year. Nancy also asked if the Association should start creating a document separate from the Competition Rules that describes all of our operating procedures that are in place or get approved during annual meeting and are currently only handed down by word of mouth. Julie reminded us that all Officers and board members have been requested to complete a job description. Mary suggested all members should have input as to these descriptions. A deadline of the Fall Mtg. was proposed.

Election of Officers:

Board of Directors - Dave and Peg Engasser, as 2014 Overall winners, will automatically be named. Past Board members Wally Robarge, Chris Henning and Chris Cicora all agreed to serve another term.

President Rob Spry resigned citing too many commitments. Mary nominated Jon Preston. Kevin nominated Jason Miranda. Devin Merkley and Jason McCadden were nominated but declined. Jon Preston won the vote.

Vice President Steve Mikloiche said he would serve again. Jon Preston nominated Jason Miranda. Steve won the vote.

Treasurer LaVonne Mikloiche was nominated by Julie and agreed to serve again. There were no challengers.

Secretary Nancy Keech asked that someone new take the position. There were no volunteers. Nancy stated this would be her final term.

Website liaison Julie Miller resigned due to demands on her time. Alexis Halstead volunteered. Julie will show her how to update the site with photos, entry forms and results.

LaVonne presented the 2014 Overall prizes to Peg Engasser and Dave Engasser.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 to a potluck feast.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Keech, Secretary