

NYSLA Fall Meeting

October 26, 2013

Members in attendance: Katie Miranda, Jason Miranda, Ben Marshall, Tim Keech, Nancy Keech, Gretchen Cicora, Chris Cicora, Connor Sleight, Dave Engasser, Peg Engasser, Erica Schreiner, John Reeder, Mary Reeder, LaVonne Mikloiche, Steve Mikloiche, Tyler White, Rick Mikloiche, Brandon Mead, Rob Spry, Jon Preston, Kevin Moynihan; guests: Jim Rotzler and Rick Ostrander

Rob Spry called the meeting to order at 1:30 and thanked Jason and Katie Miranda for hosting.

He congratulated Dave Engasser and LaVonne Mikloiche, our 2013 Overall Winners.

In a review of Spring Meeting minutes and overall discussion of season it was agreed that the torpedo levels and impact wrenches that were purchased worked well and were very helpful. Rob thought the new website (www.nyslumberjacks.org) was working well. Nancy brought up that no results have been posted since Bath even though they were emailed to Steve Lichtman at KJN Arts as well as to Julie Miller, our web liaison. All entry forms were posted. Rob will contact Julie to follow up on this. Job descriptions were to be completed by officers and board of directors as agreed in March. Please do this over the winter and bring to the Spring Meeting.

LaVonne Mikloiche read the Treasurer's Report. This will be sent in an attached document.

A review of the 2013 competitions was as follows:

Bath- everyone agreed switching the venue around with spectators in the shade worked well. Julie Miller sent comments which included that her contact with the Central Stueben Chamber of Commerce was pleased with the event and are planning on having the event again next year (May 17). They would like us to bring down the price if possible or at least not increase costs. We will not be assisting in their fundraising. Wood should be available through Phil Dickson. Events have not been decided, but Julie does not want 40 standing block choppers again. Thanks to the work crews and especially James Phenes and Dave Engasser for providing standing block stands.

Hancock – we welcomed guests Rick Ostrander and Jim Rotzler who are interested in how we can improve and grow the show next year. The Town Supervisor supports the event and might be able to get more funding. We spend money coming and staying and crowd was happy and supervisors that attended enjoyed the show. They suggested a checkerboard log unload as a new event. Any logging events would be run by a separate logging group but advertised along with our events. Band performances may also be added as well as a concert in the evening. Parade time can be changed if needed. Ben Marshall suggested a boom run on the River. Peg asked if anyone had ever done this, only Rob Spry. Many safety concerns were discussed regarding boom run and lack of potential competitors. Could the burling demonstration be changed to an actual paying event so people signed up did not cancel at the last minute? Peg mentioned we could buy a log for approximately \$2000 or perhaps contact the National Burling Association for assistance. Rob also may have access to a log if needed. Julie sent a comment that we could have a college women only handicap or college/under 23 yr. old event. Dave E. feels that is what handicap division already is and perhaps we should add other handicap events. The obstacle pole Jason created was a great success. It was suggested to add other events that we know about like fire build, New England style water boil, etc. There was discussion of having the

second show later in the day. Most felt there was too big a gap between shows. Rob would like to do standing block AND springboard, not have to choose between the two.

Stony Creek- everyone agreed it ran well and the wood was awesome. Thank you to Brad Stevens who brought wood and stands. Jake Bederian didn't have wood until week before due to Stony Creek Chamber not having money to buy wood. There was poor communication between Jake and Committee members leaving Jake up in the air as to the show status until the last minute. Katie interested in why they gave free shirts if money was an issue.

Churchville – was a new show this year. All agreed the wood could have been better. Rob said wood procurement was last minute. It was a tightly run show with only 6 events so it went quickly. There were lots of vendors. They are interested in having us again next year and we could add events. Request to add jack and jill XC. Paul Pfenninger will be main contact. Dave E. suggested a relay event that included j&j.

Clarkson- thank you to Mr. Moynihan as contact person. The Association purchased torpedo levels for use at Kevin's suggestion. Kevin would like to make changes for next year but nothing is definite yet. He is considering no bow saw and putting O.P. in. Kevin said no chaps would be required for obstacle pole but Dave E. says we have to for safety, if you don't want to wear them, then don't compete. The show moved quickly. Running up to 8 chops at once went well time wise. The crowd was a bit sparse and it was thought that weather is a big factor. A suggestion was made to move competition closer to food and vendors.

Macedon Center - wood was a bit "patchy" as it came from the same spot as Churchville. Wood cleanup was an issue and Connor's friend was very helpful but for next year maybe talk to Alpco who is already a sponsor. The bleachers were set back this year but should be back a little further especially during hot saw. Saws need to be tethered as it is stated in the Rules. Tyler mentioned springboard poles were also too close to spectators. There were axes, blocks and chips flying at the crowd. Maybe should eliminate pole on third base. Competitor parking is a problem. There is a possibility of moving the show so there is more room. Tim mentioned that regarding wood quality, in the past it has been harvested and watered and piled under chips. A lot of wood was thrown out during turning. Luck of the draw is still a factor. We don't know when wood comes from a mill what kind of shape it is in. Bath wood gets put in a dumpster and moisture evens out over time. Dave E. said then we would have the dumpster for scraps. Tyler White said bones at end of show sold for \$380 at end of Johnny Appleseed show. No slab nails were used there. They used rubber bands and duct tape so wood could be sold.

New Business discussion included:

Dave E. would like to encourage youth (under 23 yrs. old) and have them recognized if they scored high in perhaps 4 events, excluding hot saw. We could present ribbon, trophy, or some recognition like an end of year award. Some colleges are being generous with students using equipment at professional competitions. He is willing to take on the role of figuring out who is eligible for such recognition.

Dave E. questioned the use of NYSLA stands for colleges and demos. Colleges have been allowed because we want to promote the sport and our organization. Private use is questionable. General discussion included does a borrower need a waiver, should we require a school to be a member? Charge a fee? It was agreed colleges should have a NYSLA member as a "contact" person responsible for listing

equipment being used. Regarding demos, the Wayne Sportsman Show demo started out as a request for 3 things and turned into an all weekend event. Stumpy, Rob and Connor participated. No one should be using NYSLA name without approval of organization. Board and Officers should okay use of equipment, not one individual. Stakes have been lost in the past. We need an accurate inventory of how many items we have as well as where they go.

We need more drills and batteries that hold a charge longer. We currently have 4 guns and 8 batteries. Dave stated the wood bunk should have priority use over springboard in order to keep show moving.

There was discussion on are we going to build our own standing block stands. Can we afford them? Tyler suggests our design include putting a pin on the base to help hold block in place. Are we pushing weight and space factor if we have our own stands? We already stack existing stands so we could make stackable stands. Weight might be 50 lbs. depending on materials used. Need to weigh loaded trailer to see how close it is to weight limit of trailer. Rob will build the stands and would like gas money reimbursement. Steve M. can purchase metal at cost through his employer. Deadline is 4 built by spring meeting.

Julie wondered when spring meet is and if NYSLA will be present. It will be at Cobleskill the weekend after Easter. Members will be in attendance but won't need membership representative. Katie suggested we send membership forms with someone. Peg suggested printing business cards with website info. Nancy took brochures to last year's meet and had them available at show. She can produce them again for 2014.

Tim wants someone to take over handicap marks. Chris Cicora is interested. Jason Schenck wrote a program that will figure it out mathematically. Tim will contact Jason.

Mark Gregoire retired as our announcer and was presented with a gift card at Macedon Center. Gary Hammond was contacted as a potential candidate and submitted a fee schedule. The general opinion was his costs are too high for us at this time. Jon Preston is interested in the announcer position.

New memberships will be due Jan 15th in order to get shirts printed with names. 2013 was the first year memberships were due that early and there were many problems with late orders and requests for personalized shirts as late as the Macedon Center show. Multiple orders were placed. People did not pick up shirts and wanted them mailed. It was agreed it is reasonable to have Jan 15th as a deadline. Shirts ordered after January 15th will be blank on the back. The Secretary could send out reminders closer to the deadline.

Membership forms need to go out soon so forms are returned by January 15, 2014 deadline. Julie suggests getting forms to college teams as membership makes a great Christmas present. Nancy will need a list of collegiate contacts.

The trailer is located at the Spry home. PA is indoors. LaVonne mentioned the inspection and registration need to be done. Matt Marks mailing address was on the original. Rob will go to DMV and take care of it.

Were wood handled long rakes better for everyone? Yes. Tyler White paid \$15 and is willing to get more if needed.

Rob has agreed to tow the trailer to Bath. The rest of the towing schedule will be created at the Spring Meeting when we confirm our show dates.

Peg donated work tubs that Rob will put in trailer.

LaVonne feels there is too much paperwork and it is too cumbersome sharing information between Treasurer and Secretary. She would like all membership forms and entry forms to go to the Secretary and then money will be returned to the Treasurer for deposit.

No date or location for the Spring Meeting has been decided. Dave E. proposed having it at FLCC with the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and a competitor development training session in the morning for anyone interested. Ryan Staychock thought it might work if the Team was sponsoring it. Use of facility space would then be free. Dave would need members willing to provide instruction. Nathan Waterfield was suggested. We could have shirts available that day. We could offer discount membership to college students. Students would be invited to stay for the meeting. Mr. Engasser will set this up. Date would be sometime at the end of March. All college teams would be invited.

Tyler White suggested increasing the entry fee for shows and pay out an additional place or two as so many competitors are not winning any prize money and operating at a loss. He thinks increasing entry fees will help our organization. LaVonne stated payout to 6 places is a lot compared to other shows. We don't want to start paying prize money as we want sponsors to pay awards. Rob shared we all end up taking losses at competitions.

We received a thank you note from Macedon Center for participating . Nancy also read a thank you from Elizabeth Simcox and Erin Thompson for the money donated to them by NYSLA and for the money collected at competitions from members.

Peg invited NYSLA to put a 10x10 sticker on the Lumberjack Museum trailer. Chris Cicora motioned we do this as we have been invited to in the past. All were in favor.

Peg feels some money should be set aside and put in an interest bearing account. LaVonne reminded us that sometimes we need all cash available for payouts at shows before checks are received from organizations. There was discussion regarding would we then have to file taxes and how would this relate to our not-for-profit status. Tyler White will ask his banking father to investigate if we would have to pay/ file taxes if we are earning interest.

Meeting adjourned to feast at 4:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Keech, Secretary