

High Country Newfoundland Club
Board Meeting 8/5/2018
Minutes

Agenda and Sign In Distributed

Confirmation of Quorum: Board Members Present: Johanna Matsuda, Mark O'Connor, Claudia Walters, Jan Curtis, Steve Gunther and Katherine Payne. General Members Present: Sue Schneider, Sue Raney, Patti Pigeon and Lyle Payne. The teleconference line was activated however no one joined by phone.

At 12:32 pm the Board Meeting was called to order by President, Jan Curtis in the meeting room at Lakewood Library.

The following items were added to the agenda.

- 1) LLB Logo Items – New Club Order Campaign. (Claudia Walters)
- 2) Chatfield (Patti Pigeon)

The Minutes of the 5/20/2018 Board Meeting were distributed previously through email and a hard copy was available at the meeting. Johanna Matsuda made the motion to approve; Steve Gunther made the second. There was no discussion. The vote to approve was unanimous and the minutes were approved.

Report of the President – Jan Curtis, President reported that she had been contacted by the NCA to provide club insurance information, Mark O'Connor provided that information and she forwarded it to the NCA, the reason for the request for information was not clear, however was provided. Jan Curtis extended a thank you to Mark O'Connor for a nice job with the July Water Test last weekend, it ran smooth and the weather was good. She reported that she attended both Saturday and Sunday and had the opportunity to visit with the entrants and spectators. Jan Curtis noted there are a ton of people on the lake during the test and wanted to reiterate the need to respect and appreciate the site. One thing she wanted to encourage is positive communications between the public and test participants. Encourage everyone to approach the public with information on what we are doing and be inviting so they can watch the exercises if they wish. Jan Curtis also read aloud an email she received from a new member Cheryl Taylor and her Landseer Collins, she expressed interest in participating with club events and asking about activities and clinics. Jan Curtis also would like the board to call new members and invite them to events and practices. Mark O'Connor shared his experience with engaging new members and will by the next meeting send a list that can be distributed to the board members to reach out to the membership. Jan Curtis also shared that Janet Heym is also willing to help members who need assistance in grooming.

Report of the Secretary – Several communications were received and distributed to the membership, board, or committee chairs. Communications included the NewfNews Newsletter, Weekly Training Schedule at Chatfield, lost and found and meeting notices, etc. Terri Desnica being unable to attend this meeting she wanted to ask that the club trailer cleaning/organization be addressed and recommends doing this at the upcoming September Water Test. Terri Desnica also wanted to express her support regarding safety at the beach especially during test events for the dogs working off leash. Terri Desnica requested that her newsletter message be repeated. She is reporting that she has received several complaints about not sharing the beach and about putting the markers in the middle of the lake leaving no room for the other dog club groups to train. She also wanted people to remember to use long lines on their dogs during training if they are at risk of running or bolting from the training site.

Newsletter Message: *Important Message Regarding the Use of Chatfield from our Liaison, Terri Desnica: Please be respectful about sharing the beach with others. I have received some communications that this is not always the case. When other dog groups are there we need to divide up the beach nicely. Remember we are not the only club who has a permit for dogs, and we all are required because of the calendar to be there on the same days. Just because a group is there first does not give them the privilege to take over the entire or most of the area and make others have to go elsewhere or have just a sliver of beach to use. We also don't always have to use the center of the beach either. Remember we all are working and training our dogs for tests so let's share and have fun training. Also, if your dogs may have a tendency to bolt when practicing at all please use a long line on them. As you've probably noticed there has been a lot more activity at the Gravel Pond the last few years with paddle boarders, picnickers and dogs etc. We want to keep in good standing with Rangers and everyone else. If anyone has questions feel free to contact me.*

Terri Desnica's report and message was printed and distributed during the meeting.

Report of the Treasurer – Mark O'Connor distributed the Treasurer's report. Mark O'Connor reported the club has a bank balance of \$39,023.78. The club has two accounts, a money market with a balance of \$23,772.94 and the operating account with \$15,250.84. There were no complete P/L reports to present at this time.

Newsletter Editor Report – No report to present

Committee Reports –

Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws – Johanna Matsuda discussed the status of the committee and reports the documents she has are the same as what the NCA has so the committee will be moving forward. There was some discussion concerning a change of the fiscal year, however after discussion it was agreed to leave the fiscal year as it is written. The committee will give an update on the progress in 30 days to the board and President.

Regarding Policies and Procedures – Claudia is going to try and locate the old policies and procedures. There was discussion regarding notebooks and binders and it was agreed that we should have a hard copy of these documents and policies moving forward.

NCA Agility Trial - Reminder the Agility Trial is September 22nd at the Apex Center in Arvada. There are 5 NCA Members on the committee. Patti Pigeon joined the meeting and reported that everything is in place and open for entries. Because of the move to an indoor venue, the entries are expected to be higher and ultimately will yield a nicer profit. Patti Pigeon did note that we will need to have help especially at the conclusion of the trial for clean up because we have to be out of the facility by 5pm otherwise there will be an additional fee.

Awards Banquet – 2019 - Karen Benenati has agreed to chair the 2019 Awards banquet. Mark O'Connor made the motion to appoint Karen Benenati as Awards Banquet Chair for 2019. Steve Gunther made the second. The vote was unanimous and approved.

NCA Draft Test – (Fall) – The Fall draft test is October 21st and 22nd and will be at Fairmount Park in Golden, Colorado. The judges for the test are: Dawn Druge and Mark Iken. The premium is expected to publish this week. The draft test committee would like to offer on-line entries for this event. On-Line events will be addressed under new business. The committee will reach out to new members to ask for

stewards for the test to help introduce the sport and engage the new members with working events. Peggy Lange has graciously donated a full Mushing Sled and Rig to auction or raffle off for a fund raiser. Once photographs are available a blast will be sent out to the club and communities with more details. Claudia Walters suggested having members who are not entered or on the committee be mentors at the tests with education and information for spectators. Sue Schneider also suggested reaching out with practice schedules for draft to the membership as we have done with water training.

Draft Clinic- Sue Raney reported that there is no plan for a formal draft clinic at this time. An introduction to draft work can be part of the Fun Day on 10/6. The item was tabled to the next meeting.

NCA Water Test(s) - July and September - Mark O'Connor reported on the July Water Test. The test went very well. The greatest concern is the safety of the dogs, having dogs run from the site into traffic. Safety Issues at Working Events is under new business moving forward so further discussion will be done under new business.

The September Water test is September 14, 15, and 16, 2018. The test is open for NCA entries. Patti Pigeon reported that there is a judging change; Kevin Gallagher will be unable to judge our test due to medical reasons so Cindy Kursner will replace Kevin and will judge with Laura Gallagher. Sue Raney shared one of the fund raiser; a plastic duck promotion where ducks will be available for purchase at \$5/duck/day, every duck wins something.

Jan Curtis would like to see all our new members be encouraged to enter the water tests as tadpoles or beyond.

Water Clinic- Tabled to a future meeting to hold in 2019.

Community Service - Steve Gunther reported that there have not been many opportunities to offer at this time. Jefferson County Schools are now requiring the dogs be vetted as therapy dogs in order to provide the comfort visits. There was discussion concerning other possible opportunities that Steve will follow up with.

Historian – No report

Rescue - Steve Gunther reported that HCNR (High Country Newfoundland Rescue) has 3 dogs currently in rescue. 1) Shadow – who has been with the Kohlmeiers' and will likely be kept by them. 2) Donnie – a Landseer boy found in Farmington, NM and is being fostered by a family recommended by Lynn Kitch 3) Duke – a brown boy who is being fostered in Silver City, NM. The fosters for Duke have not committed, but it is looking like Duke may be a foster fail and will remain with the foster family and their two older Newfoundlands. Most recently a female "Nora" was received from the Pikes Peak Humane Society. Nora was transported from Colorado Springs to the Kohlmeier's home this week. Vickie Olson did a visit at PPHS prior to HCNR agreeing to take her. She has a few issues that need to be addressed including some eye and skin issues and further evaluation for temperament. Johanna Matsuda asked if breeders are being contacted when dogs are presented to rescue and Steve confirmed that yes they are and the pair that had been presented earlier this month were re-homed by the breeder and not brought into rescue. Discussing the finances of Rescue, Steve reports there is about \$9300 in the bank and rescue would welcome any financial support from the club. Claudia Walters asked about the T-Shirt campaign that rescue held with their new logo and recommended that it be re-launched and include all the information and links for purchase be sent out and posted to the membership and communities.

Holiday Carting/Tree Pulling- Steve Gunther reported that there has been very little success with his attempt to find carting and/or tree pulling opportunities. Claudia Walters suggested the Lighting of Breckenridge and she will follow up for more information. Sue Raney suggested the St. Patrick's Parade in Denver as another possible option. Steve will follow up with the leads and report back at the next meeting.

Holiday Party - LoriLeigh and Russ Moreland have offered to host the 2018 Holiday Party again this year. Claudia Walters made the motion to have LoriLeigh and Russ host the holiday party this year. Johanna Matsuda made the second. The vote was unanimous and approved.

Meet The Breed – Claudia Walters reported that she had received information from the CKC about meet the breed and did express our interest. Claudia will follow up on the status for the February 2019 show.

National Ad- Tabled to a future meeting.

New Puppy Buyers - Mark O'Connor reported that he does get contacted and offers the first year of membership with HCNC as a non-voting membership as an introduction to the club. Linking into Membership there was discussion regarding building membership. Jan Curtis would like to contact all NCA members who are not High Country members to engage in a dialog and invite them to be part of the regional club. Jan Curtis will reach out to those NCA members. Sue Schneider suggested reaching out to the members of the Facebook Group Colorado Newfoundlands. A plan to reach out to those members to invite them to the Fun Day 2018 once details are available. New Member applications will be available at the Fun Day for anyone interested in membership.

Sunshine Committee - Sue Schneider reported that she has sent out 3 cards all of which are for owners having medical procedures. She reports fortunately the dogs are all doing well.

Fun Day and Picnic - Sue Raney gave the report, the Fun Day is scheduled for 10/6 at Lyons Park, and the Pavilion has been reserved. Sue reports planning lots of fun events, including a costume contest, Newf trivia, games and more. Sue will put together an information flyer to be distributed.

2018 Regional –Claudia Walters reports that the Regional has been published on the NCA calendar and was published in the latest Newf Tide edition. The Premium has not been published yet. Claudia reports she will be sending out post cards as she has done in the past. Claudia reports that she and Steve Gunther have finalized the basket themes. There will be one basket for each state (Colo, Utah, Wy, and New Mexico) one HCNC Themed basket and the Rescue Basket will be Wine/Cheese themed. LoriLeigh Moreland has offered to store all the stuff that gets donated for the baskets. Shine Sturtz has done an awesome job on the trophies and sponsorship. There was discussion about the brown bag auction – ring side. It will be finalized once Claudia confirms with Karen Benenati to see if Karen wants to manage the Brown Bag event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Secretary of State Delinquent Status – Mark O'Connor will follow up on this item to have the status corrected.

First Aid for People and Dogs – This item has been tabled multiple times. Katherine Payne made the motion to drop the item from the agenda moving forward due to lack of interest and if at some time in

the future we want to revisit it, we can. Johanna Matsuda seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Health Clinic - This item has been tabled multiple times and after discussion it was decided to revisit this for 2019.

HCNC Documents, Policies and Procedures - This item has been combined with the Constitution and Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

On Line Entry and On Line Services for Working Events – Sue Raney presented to the board the program that the NCA is rolling out for on-line entries. The NCA is currently utilizing Stripe to receive entry fees and unlike other services, these funds are directly deposited into the clubs account, not requiring transfers to club accounts. Johanna Matsuda asked what the cost for this service would be for the club. The fees associated with the on-line entry are directly connected to the payment for entries. The majority of the clubs are increasing their entry fees by \$5 to cover the costs from the service provider, typically around \$3/entry. On-Line entries are not required for entries and paper entries will still be accepted for events. There were two motions on the subject.

First; Steve Gunther made the motion that the HCNC Board authorizes the treasurer to set up an account with Stripe. Claudia Walters seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Second: Mark O'Connor made the motion that the club approve the new NCA online entry system for the October Draft Test. Katherine Payne seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark O'Connor will contact Dan Zimmerman regarding the Stripe account. Steve Gunther, Secretary of the October Draft Test will contact Dan Zimmerman for the link information for the on-line entry option to include in the 2018 Fall Draft Test Premium.

Chatfield- Patti Pigeon reported that she had been contacted by the Chatfield Ranger regarding our permit. She shared a copy of our training/water permit and wanted to point out that we do not have exclusive rights to the area. There was discussion with the increased volume of people using the gravel ponds, including families with small children and the availability of beach space. The suggestion that the park could be approached about clearing some of the brush from the current beach area (east side) to the north side which would open up more functional working space. Patti Pigeon shared her knowledge of the plans for the Gravel Pond area and that the park is considering possible other areas for our training. The overall opinion is while at the Gravel Ponds, it is not any of our members' job or responsibility to police the beach so in the meanwhile we will all be a little more patient while training with the general public and other dog groups.

Safety Issues at Working Event – Jan Curtis opened the topic and to follow on the heels of Mark O'Connor's point in the Water Test Committee report regarding the need for Safety of the Dogs being our number one priority. Katherine Payne addressed the board saying as we are all aware, the road adjacent to the gravel ponds is extremely busy with public access; even more so now that the swim beach has been closed. The distance between the "testing site" and the "active traffic" is (3 8 ft posts) 24 feet plus 2 feet on each side making it between 28 and 30 feet. Katherine would propose that HCNC utilize a secondary barrier along that fence line, not encroaching on the test site but as a safety precaution so dogs that leave the test side thru the contractor taping not risk being hit by cars. This last test, we had a number of dogs who did leave the site and one in particular that nearly was hit by 2 cars. Placing this secondary barrier does not give any advantage to testing dogs; it is solely for the purpose of safety. There will always be the need to have stewards at the entry and exit of the site as well as along

the waterway. Katherine Payne is offering to donate one new 4Ft X 50Ft snow fencing roll that the club would use to help with this project. Recommending that the fencing be strung along the parks existing split rail fence and use ties or rope to secure it in place. The ease of use of the snow fence being able to be put up and taken down as needed. Mark O'Connor has also offered to donate a roll of the fencing as well. There was discussion as to if the regulations would allow this fencing be used to replace the current contractor tape marking the official test site area. Sue Raney reviewed the 2018 Water Test Regulations and read aloud the equipment requirements and indicated that there are no restrictions of using this fencing. All in attendance agreed that the safety of the dogs needs to be primary and plans moving forward to make the site safer will be done.

Jan Curtis asked the September Water Test committee present, Patti Pigeon and Sue Raney, if they would be agreeable to using the snow fencing to mark off the test site, instead of the contractor tape. Patti Pigeon indicated there is a working dog committee meeting this week and she will ask them if there is any issue with using this and will report back to the board.

2019 Regional Venue- Claudia Walters opened the topic as previously discussed by the board to consider moving the Regional from Pueblo to another show. Claudia Walters shared the time line required to make a change of venue and that to make a change for 2019, we need to act soon, if the Regional is to stay in Pueblo, we do not have to take any immediate action. Claudia Walters was asked if she would consider chairing the 2019 Regional, her response indicated she loves to do the Regional but requires the support of the board and a good committee. There was no formal motion regarding the 2019 Regional, so further discussion will be tabled to the next meeting.

National Specialty Site Review - Jan Curtis opened the topic sharing that she has been approached by a few club members interested in having HCNC host a future National in Colorado. At this time, the idea to look for possible sites for a National would need to be done before any other steps are made. Jan Curtis has the necessary requirements from the NCA and she had the conversation with Donna Thibault and the overall opinion was that the NCA would certainly welcome HCNC to host another National if the club wishes to press forward. Jan Curtis shared that Kady Eckstrom and Shine Sturtz as well as Dick and Janet Hem having expressed interest in looking for potential sites. There was no motion made regarding this, however the interested individuals will gather the information and present back to the board their findings regarding possible sites.

LLB Logo Items - Claudia Walters shared that HCNC has been featured in the LLB Business Catalog with a few of our logo items. Since the release of this catalog, Claudia has received several communications and comments expressing interest in our logo items. Claudia Walters will plan a new campaign for HCNC logo items in October.

Next Board Meeting and General Meeting - The next General meeting will be October 6th after the Fun Day. Having the Board Meeting first, followed by the General Meeting at Lyons Park in Golden. CO.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Payne
Secretary – HCNC