Canadian Goat Society
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M I N U T E S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held via Zoom

November 16, 2024 · 11:00 am SK Time

Present: Sandy Howell, Susan Frazer, Arnie Steeves, Ted Brooksxs, Kelly Bidan, Becky Holvik, Brin Jackson, Shannon Skulmoski, PJ Frazer, Nicole Poburan, Jim Tindall, Joanne Battersby, Angela Forster, Sherrie Semple, Brenda Keleman Tkachuk, Chris Grab, Deborah Skeels, Linda Carlson, Vanessa Johnne, Eugenia Carnegie, Tamara Wise, Diana Owens, Brynne Herbison, Brian Sullivan, Amanda Lindsay-Peaire, Carol Clayson, Jonathan Dugdale, Tanya McCarthy, Sue Mangan, Zoe Thorbergson, Lauren Topping, Kerry O'Donnell (Secretary Manager)

1. Called to order at 11:02 p.m. by Sandy Howell with 22 members present at this time and quorum being met and maintained throughout the meeting.

2. Identification of members

- Members were identified by the S/M as they entered the Zoom waiting room and throughout the meeting as they were admitted.
- The S/M gave a brief tutorial on the Zoom platform, housekeeping items, and the process that would be followed for asking questions, commenting, making motions, seconding motions, and voting.

3. Introduction of Directors and Staff

- Each of the CGS Directors gave a brief introduction of themselves. President Sandy Howell then introduced the S/M.

4. Approval of the agenda

- **Motion to approve the agenda as presented**. Moved by Kelly Bidan. Seconded Vanessa Johnne. None opposed. **CARRIED**

5. Approval of the minutes from the March 23, 2024 Annual General Meeting.

- **Motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2024 AGM**. Moved by Vanessa Johnne. Seconded by Amanda Lindsay-Peaire. None opposed. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

- No business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

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7. Director and Committee Reports

7.1 Office Report

- The Office report was included in the AGM package sent to individuals who had registered for the AGM
- The S/M announced decisions that had been made during the meetings prior to the AGM namely:
    - Members Performance Grant will not be offered in 2025 due to a lack of participation in 2024.
    - 6% increase in unit fees by CLRC effective January 1, 2025 resulting in a comparative increase to members for certain transactions. The S/M enabled screen sharing to highlight the transactions that would be increasing.
    - One-Day and 305-Day Milk Test fees will remain unchanged for 2025
    - Show sanctioning fees will remain unchanged for 2025, AOP Insurance will be automatically included for all sanctioned shows at no cost. Sanctioning fees will be waived for all National shows and Rosettes and certificates will be provided free of charge starting in 2026.
    - The S/M shared the following statement on behalf of the CGS Board in regards to a recent Judges license extension request," *This unfortunate situation has clearly identified a deficiency in the JLC policy that had been overlooked during the previous revision process. As a Board of Directors we unanimously commit to a review of the provisions of the JLC policy that applies to extenuating circumstances, and we will apply the revised policy to this situation prior to the expiration of the current license which is due to expire on December 31, 2024."*
    - Classification program fees will remain unchanged for 2025.
    - Applications that had been received to sit on the various CGS committees were reviewed and committee members have been selected. Anyone still wishing to sit on a committee is encouraged to submit an application to the CGS office.
        - The S/M asked if anyone present had questions or comments on the office report.
        - Carol Clayson stated that she felt that Ted and Callum should not be able to vote on proposals related to the Judge's license as it put them in a position of conflict in the sense that it could offer them more judging opportunities. The S/M requested that this thought be presented under agenda item number 11.

8.2 Financial Report

- The financial report, the audited financial statements, and notes for the audited financial statements were included in the AGM report for attendees. The members were asked for questions or comments they might have on the financial report and audited financial statements.
- Carol Clayson asked for clarification on the legal expenses for the Association. The S/M clarified that a formal written complaint had been sent to the CGS office and legal counsel had been obtained to assist the BOD with proceeding with the complaint. Carol asked if there was not already a process in

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place to deal with complaints, to which the S/M clarified that by-laws and policies unfortunately are not always a one-size-fits-all all and that, in this instance, it was felt that obtaining legal counsel was the best route for the Association. Tanya McCarthy added that it was she who had lodged the complaint against Sandy Howell for not following rules and that the CGS Board did not follow the advice of the legal counsel. The S/M noted that as the complainant, Tanya was not involved in any of the meetings with the legal counsel and therefore could not know what advice had been given and verified that that BOD had followed the advice of their legal counsel.

- **Motion: To accept the financial statements as presented**. Moved by Linda Carlson. Seconded by Lauren topping. None opposed. **CARRIED**
- **Motion**: **To appoint RLB from Guelph, Ontario as the auditor for 2025**. Moved by Amanda Lindsay-Peaire. Seconded by Lauren Topping. None opposed. **CARRIED.**

8.3 East and West National Show

- Kelly Bidan announced the 2025 East and West National Shows
  - 2025 West National Show | July 26, 2025 | Rimbey, AB
  - 2025 East National Show | November 7, 2025 | RAWF

9. CGS Awards and Presentations

- One application was received this year for the Silver Master Breeder Award. President Howell noted that this award was based only on performance programs (Classification and Milk Recording) which makes it even more difficult to obtain.
- Congratulations were extended to Brynne Herbison of Mossy Rock Farm, breeder of Nigerian Dwarf Goats for achieving this award. Congratulations were received via the chat in support of Brynne.

10. Announcement of 2024/2025 CGS Executive

- The S/M announced the newly elected Executive for 2024/2025
  - President – Sandy Howell
  - First Vice President – Callum McCleod
  - Second Vice President – Becky Holvik

11. Correspondence – Judge's License Extension Request

- The S/M provided some background to the subject matter of the Judges License Request. An individual had registered to attend the recent JLC that was held in Ontario in October as this was a requirement of renewing their license. The individual had some unfortunate personal events taking place in their life and was subsequently unable to attend. A request was sent to the CGS office by the coordinator of the JLC (unbeknownst to the member unable to attend) requesting an extension on her behalf. The Office indicated to the coordinator that she was not comfortable

going to a Board with someone's personal business unless the person themself had given consent for that to take place. The Coordinator reached out to the member and came back to the CGS office, stating that the member had provided consent. The request for the extension and the surrounding circumstances were then presented to the Board. The S/M noted that the Board felt that they needed to follow their existing policy and follow the pre-existing definition of what an extension entails; namely, the individual would not lose their tenure, they would have a temporarily suspended license for the 2 year period, and on attending and successfully passing the next JLC, would have the license re-activated. The S/M noted that a certain number of CGS members were not in support of this decision which prompted them to send their thoughts in writing.

- No further background information was requested from the members present at the meeting.
- The S/M proceeded to read the letters of concern that had been sent to the CGS Office (in no particular order) from Anne Melnyk, Chris Grab, Brenda Keleman-Tkachuk, Shannon Skulmoski, Deborah Skeels, and Jonathan Dugdale. (Brenda Keleman-Tkachuk read a portion of her letter herself).
- The S/M asked for verification from the members that no one's letter had been missed.
- Carol Clayson questioned why the Board made the decision regarding the license extension rather than the JLC committee, as referenced in the JLC TOR. The S/M replied that at the time the decision was made, the committee was not in existence. The TOR for the committee was only approved by the Board at the meetings held 2 days prior to the AGM and committee members were only chosen from the supplied applications yesterday. In the absence of a committee, the Board made the decision. Carol opinioned that Callum (McLeod) and Ted (Brooks) should not have been able to table the proposal as that placed them in a place of conflict of interest. By denying an extension they in essence provided themselves with more Judging opportunities. (Of note, Ted Brooks does not hold a CGS Judges License).
- Zoe asked for clarification that Chris Grab has a Full Judges license and that the Maritimes JLC was run by two Judges with only one having a valid license. The S/M validated that Lorraine Keeping and Arnie Steeves were on the Maritimes JLC panel and that the CGS Judges Tracker shows Arnie as an Advanced Judge who was not due to attend a JLC until this year (2024). The S/M provided further details on the function of the Judges Tracker and the information it tracks for all CGS Judges. It was noted that Advanced Judges were required to attend a JLC every 5 years under the previous rules and are now required to attend every 6 years.
- Jonathan noted that Arnie was not on the Judges list when he and Chris compiled the Judges list when they were on the Board.
- Brenda Keleman Tkachuk asked if the issue had been rectified. The S/M re-read the statement issued by the Board of Directors regarding the JLC policy.
- It was questioned if a member could make a motion to have the license reinstated. It was suggested that the Board was committed to reviewing the policy as outlined in their statement. It was clarified that if a decision was made by the Board and a member disagreed that they could

submit written correspondence to the office for consideration at a monthly meeting. President Howell noted that to reverse the decision, the Board would have to rescind their motion.

- Director Becky Holvik noted that the difference between ADGA and CGS is that ADGA can grant an extension and the individual would have the opportunity to renew the following year, as their JLC's are offered annually while CGS offers JLCs every two years.
- The S/M noted that the definition of "extension" was not included in the last revision of the JLC policy and that if it had been included there might not be different interpretations of what the word "extension" means.
- It was noted by Sue Mangan that the motion to allow the Maritimes to run with 2 Judges rather than 3 was done as a one time exception. Sue opinioned that the Judges license extension request could have been handled in a similar manner.
- It was opinioned by Carol Clayson that the member in question should have been informed of the Board's decision prior to the report to membership being posted on the website. It was also opinioned that membership in CGS is down due to decisions such as this.
- Amanda Lindsay-Peaire noted that she has difficulty understanding the decision to run the Maritimes JLC with 2 panel members when she felt a rule was clearly in place. It was noted by a Board member that all of the other Advanced Judges had been asked and were unable to attend.

    - **Motion:** That Chris Grab's Judging license be extended to the next JLC and specifically that her license remain active such that she can continue to judge without conditions, (with the exception of Judging national shows) pending the next JLC that she can attend. Motion clarified to add that the Judges license would remain in effect until December 31, 2026. Moved by Brenda Keleman Tkachuk. Seconded by Jonathan Dugdale. None opposed. Abstained: None **CARRIED.**

    - Prior to the President asking for a seconder, the S/M asked if anyone needed to have the motion re-stated.
    - Director Becky Hovik noted that despite the motion, she was just as committed to reviewing the current policy.

12. Unfinished Business

    - No unfinished business

13. New Business

    - Director Kelly Bidan mentioned that the Judge for the East National Show in 2025 was yet to be determined.
    - Deb Skeels asked to visit 7.3 and 7.8. The S/M offered an apology to Deborah as she was sent an incorrect agenda.

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- Jonathan Dugdale referred to the report to the membership of the October Board meeting regarding a letter of intent to CLRC and asked President Howell if she is the President of CLRC. President Howell responded that she is the Chair. He opinioned that as such this was a conflict of interest and questioned if she declared this at the meeting and excused herself from the discussion. President Howell noted that she spoke when asked a direct question and did not offer a vote on the matter.
- Carol Clayson opinioned that a conflict of interest only occurs when two businesses are in competition with one another, which CLRC and CGS are not. She then opinioned that Sandy Howell, Arnie Steeves, and Susan Frazer had all been long time members of the Board and questioned at what point would they step aside and allow someone else to be a Director. She noted that Sandy had been the President for the past six years and that it was time for her to step down and allow younger people take over. Board member Susan Frazer noted times when President Howell herself had nominated other Board members to the position of President, and they declined the nomination. Member Linda Carlson opinioned that there was one easy solution to this – elections. A process is already in place and interested individuals can run for election and people can have any Board they want.
- Carol opinioned that some decisions made by the Board have not been in the best interest of the Canadian Goat Society and that members not being able to attend regular meetings of the Board is part of the problem. If members could attend regular meetings, these decisions would not be able to be made. She opinioned that there is no reason the general membership cannot attend regular meetings.
- Jonathan Dugdale mentioned that when he was on the Board he and Tanya McCarthy nominated Chris Grab for President and she was not elected.
- Tanya opinioned that people do not want to join the Board due to the people currently on the board and further stated that they do not want to work with other people.
- Sue Mangan opinioned that Districts should be done away with and expand the Board to 10 Directors.
- Kelly questioned why the general membership is not allowed to attend the regular scheduled Board meetings. The S/M noted that she is not aware of the history behind this. President Howell noted that when the meetings moved to a virtual platform, the Board at the time made a decision to not have general members present at regular Board meetings.
- The S/M questioned if an action item for her following the meeting should be to contact Ag Canada for some clarity and advice on this issue. It was agreed this would be an action item. Jonathan Dugdale opinioned that this issue has been raised multiple times in the past and that he is not confident that the Board would look into it. The S/M stated that she was going to be looking into the matter, not the Board and if she said she was going to be doing that, it would be done. Another member questioned if a date for completion could be given. The S/M responded that a firm deadline for completion is not possible as response time from outside agencies is beyond her control.

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- Amanda Lindsay-Peaire asked for an update on the processing of Eastern Canada ROA's. The S/M responded that the show committee has just been formed at the 2 days meetings prior to the AGM and that hopefully an initial meeting could be held prior to Christmas.
- Tanya McCarthy asked if an alleged comment from a Board member/Board members regarding recommendations from the Show committee in relation to ROA discrepancies had been discussed at the meetings prior to the AGM. The S/M noted that they had not, and that if Tanya could compile her correspondence and send it to the CGS Office this could be discussed at a future meeting.
- Carol Clayson questioned the status of work being done to move a portion of the JLC training to an online platform. It was noted by the S/M that that work has not been completed.
- Carol noted that she appreciated the work performed by the S/M and the details in reports. The sentiment was echoed by other members.

16. Adjourn

President Howell thanked everyone for being present at the meeting and bringing their questions and comments forward.

- Motion to adjourn at 1:14 p.m. by Amanda Lindsay-Peaire.

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