



CFHA 2008 Annual General Meeting
November 8, 2008
Draft Minutes

Present:

Anna Middleton, Robert Middleton, Tyler Rendek, Dianne Manegre, Carol Boehm, Barb Neufeld, Mary Kenny, Julia Debner, Burt Shewfelt, Brian Dahl, Alison Baaken, Marg Shorhen, Eunice and John Bosomworth, Geri MacNeil, Connie Banks, Kevin Proud, Heather Gomulka, Bill and Iris Morgan, Robert By, Gary Boe.

1. Identification of members present
2. Adoption of agenda – motion to adopt made by Carol Boehm, seconded by Tyler Rendek
3. Approval of 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes – motion to adopt made by Alison Baaken, seconded by Geri MacNeil.
4. 2007 Financial Statements – unaudited, prepared by Meyers Norris Penny. Dianne Manegre presented highlights from the 2007 financial statements, and asked for questions or comments. It was suggested by Eunice Bosomworth that the revenue and expenses be reported in more detail (eg honourariums, sources of revenue). Barb Neufeld asked that revenues and expenses associated with the website be separately reported. Dianne moved that the financial statements be adopted, seconded by Anna Middleton.
5. Accountant for 2008 – Dianne will confirm a local accountant to review the financial statements (i.e. notice to reader or compilation agreement), same terms and same or less cost than what was done by Meyers Norris Penny
6. Directors' Report
 - a) Results of directors' election – Burt reported that 40-50 people voted, out of the 150 CFHA members. Dianne reported the number of people nominated, the number voting, and the people who were elected as directors in each region. Carol Boehm noted that she hadn't received any information about the election, but that she wasn't sure when she had paid for her membership. It was clarified that all paid members at the end of March should have received voting information. There was some discussion about whether or not a new cutoff should be established. Dianne noted that this would likely involve a bylaw change, and that any bylaw change required advance notice prior to the annual meeting, so that members were aware of proposed changes ahead of time. Burt suggested that this be tabled until the discussion of the new business.
 - b) Website – Burt noted that feedback had been overwhelmingly positive. Barb thanked all those who have supported it, and that it was established for less

than \$750 that was budgeted. The only negative feedback is that everyone wants to see it updated more often. Barb indicated that she will need more help if this is going to happen, especially from the different regions. Burt asked if there is an annual fee paid to the host? Barb noted that there is an annual domain fee of ~\$125, it may increase slightly. She also noted that there is a lot of additional material that could be posted, if there was the same funding as last year. Burt suggested the possibility of providing an honourarium for Barb. Carol Boehm moved, seconded by Geri MacNeil, that the directors consider an honourarium. Passed.

- c) New secretary treasurer – Burt noted that Dianne Manegre has been appointed as the new secretary treasurer, effective April 1, 2008.
 - d) 2008 budget – Dianne presented information regarding the budget which had been approved by the directors. Barb questioned the fact that the budget planned for a loss. Dianne indicated that the planned loss for 2008 was the result of the pre-evaluation clinic, and that this was an unusual item for the association to incur. Barb expressed her concern that hosting this one event was enough to put the association “in the red” for the year, and suggested that there be an opportunity for members to donate to evaluations (included in the annual membership form). Burt asked that we move to the next agenda item, for Alison to comment about funding for future evaluations.
7. Report from committees
- a) Evaluation – Alison reported that the committee had met by phone, and that there was strong agreement that an evaluation system would provide good information and education both to breeders, and to the general public. Any future evaluation clinics will be funded by the people participating in them. The committee is hoping that there will be opportunities to hold evaluation clinics in the east, or west, or both, if there is enough interest. One question that we’re still working on is how the results of the evaluation will be recorded – website, CLRC registration, published book or binder. With the system developed by the NFHR, and the Canadians who have been involved internationally with evaluations, much of the work has been done. Geri asked if the NFHR will let the CFHA use its evaluation system. Alison confirmed that we’re working towards complete reciprocity in the system, where regardless of where an event is held, both Canadian and US horses could be evaluated and the results registered with the respective associations. One outstanding issue is insurance. Mary Kenny asked if the NFHR evaluation system recognized the three types of fjords, Alison confirmed that it did. Carol Boehm indicated that she had used the NFHR evaluation system, and recommended it, as well as the lists of evaluation results. Alison provided the names of committee members: Alison Baaken, Brian Dahl, Burt Shewfelt, Carol Boehm, Brian Jensen, Pat Wolfe, Gord Fulton. Burt shared that the NFHR president had responded to a request from the CFHA, indicating that the NFHR expects there to be no problems in providing permission to the CFHA to use the NFHR evaluation system, and that they expect there to be opportunities breeders, training of future evaluators, etc. to share in the mutual

goal. Discussions will be finalized shortly, and the results be communicated soon. Members recognized and thanked Burt for his efforts with regards to a CFHA evaluation program. It was noted that Pat Wolfe will be holding an evaluation clinic this spring, if there is enough interest, which will hopefully be sanctioned by both the NFHR and the CFHA. There is also a possibility that a clinic may be held in Nova Scotia. Alison indicated that it was also hoped that there would be an evaluation clinic in the west. Eunice asked whether the CFHA would be contributing financially to these events. Carol brought back the idea of voluntary donations for evaluations. It would be possible, but the committee is newly formed. Barb asked whether or not the CFHA wouldn't put its full support behind those who were organizing clinics. Burt indicated that it would be possible for the evaluation committee to bring forward requests to the directors for financial support. Barb clarified that there would be other ways to provide support, in terms of promoting the event, volunteering, etc.

- b) Membership – Eunice (chair) reported that membership has declined from a high of 174 in 2002 to 142 in 2008. Membership was fairly consistent at 157 between 2005 to 2007). Membership committee wants to find out the reasons for the decline in membership. Committee is still new, at present includes Burt, Dianne, Carol Boehm, and Barbara Neufeld. Eunice has determined that a large drop was caused by the loss of members to the NFHR. There was also a large drop in Saskatchewan. Again, the reasons need to be investigated. Eunice had done an informal survey to people in eastern Canada, via e-mail. Some weren't aware of the CFHA, some weren't aware of the website, were just happy with their Fjords. There was some additional discussion about questionnaire results, and the need to collect more information, in a broader way. Eunice confirms that there is room for more members to join the membership committee Burt throws out a request for more members to join the committee. Barb outlines the need to grow our membership and reiterates Burt's request. Robert By reported for the records committee that in the year 2006, 146 fjord horses were registered with the CLRC. From November 2006 to November 2007, 102 horses were registered and from November 2007 to November 2008 only 71 horses were registered. 17 horses were transferred to new owners in 2007 and in 2008 only 5 horses were transferred. Burt thanked Robert. Barb asked how many registrations have been refused in the past three years. Robert replied three or four. The one refusal in the last two years was due to the horse's bloodline not being recognized as our stud book is closed. Barb suggested the extreme drop in our numbers is a result of NFHR recently taking over the other registrars in the US, announcing an amnesty and slashing memberships and registration fees. Barb reported that the NFRA bylaws now read that the NFRA is striving to represent the Fjord horse in North America. Eunice noted that some NFRA members may only really be interested in the magazine that accompanies the membership and that our humble newsletter does not likely share a similar glossy destiny. Mary Kenny questioned whether our organization should direct its efforts to members who use and love their Fjords but may not be inclined to register them. A discussion ensued

regarding the goals of the CFHA. Burt encouraged the membership committee to review the bylaws and to gather membership perspectives and direction and to present their submissions to the CFHA directors

8. Unfinished business

- a) Transfer of registrations between Canada and US – Burt discussed the question regarding the registration updating to the CLRC of horses that were being sold both ways across the US/Canada border. The question posed at the 2007 AGM was “is there a way that we could have the original registration updated on these horses prior to registering them in another registry?” This question was asked of Mavis Macdonald (CLRC) and Mike May (NFHR). Mike responded by saying he liked the idea but asked what we would propose to do about the certificate and the fees that would not be collected. Mavis was asked if it would be feasible to have a separate registration fee for an imported horse. This fee would then cover the additional administration costs to keep these records updated. It was agreed that the CFHA and its members would benefit from an improved, up-to-date and accurate recording system. Carol suggested that the records committee needs more members. Burt and the records committee (Robert) will continue working on this issue.
- b) GST registration status of association – Short discussion of what work has been done on this issue during the past secretary/treasurer’s term. The directors will decide on the merits of a GST registration based on Dianne’s forthcoming analysis of the potential tax monies that could be claimed by the CFHA versus the additional administration required by both the membership and the CFHA.
- c) Letter from Meyers Norris Penny re: audit of financial statements – Dianne explained that the cost of an audit performed by Meyers Norris Penny has risen to \$2500.00 to \$3500.00 per year (about 15% of the CFHA yearly budget). Meyers Norris Penny recommended that in light of the CFHA’s small revenues and that these revenues are generated mostly from membership fees and not from other funding bodies such as a Government department and that as such there is no legal requirement for an audit that the CFHA continue with the less expensive option of a “Notice to reader” engagement. Membership agrees.

9. New business

- a) Evaluations – Addressed at agenda item 7a
- b) Number of directors/provincial registration – Membership committee to examine placement of directors throughout Canada.
- c) Microchip rep – The new microchip distributor for BC, AB, and SK is Tyler Rendek. The cost for a microchip is still only \$25.00.

10. Other business – Margaret Shorhen indicated that for personal reasons, she may need to resign her directorship. The CFHA extended its support to Margaret. Burt indicated that he will continue a dialogue with Margaret regarding her ability to maintain her position as director.

11. Next meeting – Membership to recommend to the directors a date prior to March 15/2009.

Informal roundtable

Burt thanks CFHA members for their support and attendance at this year's AGM. Dianne notes honorariums paid to Secretary/treasurer (\$175/month) and Darlene Shewfelt for newsletter (\$500/year). There is a motion to decide on an honorarium for the website work.

Members present discussed different possibilities for future meeting places and processes. Some had concerns about the tele-conference approach not being as personal as they would like and that it wasn't always easy to hear the other members' comments. Others appreciated that technology allowed a larger and more diverse group of Canadians to gather for the business of the CFHA. There was several comments relating to the desire to bring in more members from all across the country.

Different perspectives on the merits of an evaluation system were brought up by some members. Concern was expressed over the possibility of evaluations creating two tiers within the CFHA. One tier for horse enthusiasts and another for more professional breeders. Other members suggested that an evaluation system was essential if Canadian breeders are to avoid being "robbed blind" by the American buyers.

There was a short discussion on limiting terms for directorship. The membership committee will make a recommendation to the directors.

There was a general consensus on the high level of excitement about the future of the CFHA and Dianne thanked Burt for his hard work and Burt once again thanked all those contributing to the betterment of the CFHA.

Motion to adjourn made by