

PBGF Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 16, 2017

Central Beagle Club, Gibsonia, PA

Delegates in Attendance: Beechton, Breakneck, Carlisle, Cambria, Central, Conemaugh Valley, Elizabethtown, Hilltop, Indiana, Lebanon, Lycoming County, Lykens Valley, Northern Lancaster, Pucketos, Rainbow, Shamokin, Sharpsville, Towanda, Webster

- I. **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order by Josh Rissinger at 4:30 PM
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** Minutes (for both January Delegates meeting and April Board of Directors meeting) were emailed out in advance of this meeting and were accepted (Motion by Webster and Seconded by Shamokin)
- III. **Introduction of Guests-** Mike Luchetta, representing Purina, was in attendance for the meeting and supporting the 2017 PBGF Derby Championship Trial
- IV. **Officer's and Director's Reports**
 - A. **President-** Josh Rissinger highlighted his appreciation of Claire Spettell and the work behind the scenes she does with communications and the website.
 - B. **Eastern Vice President-** Jeremy Bowles- none.
 - C. **Western Vice President-** Jim Kazmarek- none.
 - D. **Treasurer's Report-** Dave Sharer gave a detailed treasurer's report: Opening Balance \$9,725.90 & Ending Balance of \$10,899.74. A motion was made by Rainbow, seconded by Breakneck to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion passed unanimously.
 - E. **Secretary-** Brian Phillips- none.
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Treasurer's Annual Audit Committee-** Will be reviewed for January 2018 Meeting.
 - B. **Hall of Fame-** Ballots were taken for Hall of Fame Voting
 - C. **By-Law Committee-** none.
 - D. **Political Awareness Committee-** Toby Fauver provided a handout on legislative updates such as-
 - i. **House Bill 1238 Pn 1565** which is scheduled for a second consideration on Monday June 19, 2017. Toby wrote there are still concerns, but overall the bill is much better than last session's tethering bill.

- ii. **Senate Resolution 35-** If passes would create an Animal Abuse Task Force required to study animal cruelty laws in PA and recommend specific improvements to animal cruelty laws to reduce animal abuse. We have requested that a member of the PBGF, specifically Josh Rissinger, be put on the Task Force if the Resolution passes.
- iii. **Get to know your legislators-** Consider inviting your legislator to attend a club meeting to speak to the club members on hunting, game laws and/or dog laws. Consider inviting your legislator to attend a field trial to see what it's all about. You can take a quick break at entry closing in the morning or over lunch to give them an opportunity to speak to the group. We need to build relationships with the legislators to try to find a few champions for our issues.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. **2017 Championship Trials-** The All-Age Championship Trial will be held October 7-8 at Lycoming County Beagle Club. Mike Johnson voiced that the grounds are in great shape and have plenty of game. Judge voting took place and will be communicated.
- B. **Article 13, Section 1: Unanimously Approved-** Josh Rissinger discussed the possible update of By-Laws for clubs that do not meet the attendance requirement of 1 trial per year. The proposed update would be for the club to lose Federation voting rights for the following year, instead of the current penalties of fines and expulsion. This amendment would remove the last (2) sentences from the By-Laws "Any club in violation will be penalized by not being allowed to hold PBGF Qualifying Trials the following year. A second suspension will lead to expulsion of the club from the Federation." Mark Malloy (Carlisle) made motion, Craig Chelednik (Conemaugh Valley) seconded the amendment. Amendment will be added to June Meeting Agenda. Unanimously approved at the June 16, 2017 meeting.
- C. **Article 2, Section 1: Unanimously Approved-** It was brought to our attention by Jim Katchko that there was a missed language update in the by-laws when it was approved to open up the Pennsylvania borders to offer membership to clubs outside of the state. Mark Malloy (Carlisle) made a motion, Jim Roush (Webster) seconded. Amendment will be added to June Meeting Agenda. Unanimously approved at the June 16, 2017 meeting.
- D. **C-3 Non-Profit Status Update-** Dave Sharer shared a letter from the lawyer that provided guidance for the PBGF to amend our by-laws to align with the C-3 Status requirements. Jim Kazmarek expressed that he saw nothing in the application that raises a "flag" on our current Federation structure and status. However, thought possibly there was a difference in the long form vs EZ file form... There was concern over wording in the C-3 that prohibits paying lobbyists, however we as a Federation do not engage in paying lobbyist. Mike Johnson (Lycoming) made a motion to make necessary changes with by-laws and move forward. Taylor Lewis (Lykens Valley) seconded, passed unanimously. Dave Sharer to move forward with Lawyer on next steps. **Will be added to agenda for October 2017 Meeting.**

- E. **Annual Raffle Fundraising-** Dave Sharer spoke that the raffle tickets will be put out in October to give plenty of time to sell. The tickets have been updated with the disclosure that unsold tickets are property of the Federation. Dave also will be handling responsibilities over for the raffle tickets this year. Josh Rissinger seeking an individual to run the program.

VII. **New Business**

- A. **2018 Derby Championship Trial-** To be hosted by Shamokin Beagle Club

- B. **PBGF Survey Responses-** The Board expressed the need for clubs to voice their concerns, suggestions, etc. to improve the Federation

- C. **Running Rules-** Jeremy Bowles read over revisions and clarified that all dogs must be measured. There was also clarification on currently any combined license trial and PBGF Qualifying Trial can be done, but consistency points do not count. Mike Johnson (Lycoming) made a motion to allow a club to have the option to hold PBGF Qualifying Trial in conjunction with their licensed trial (with Show and must be advertised as such) AND counts towards consistency. Taylor Lewis (Lykens Valley) seconded the motion. Voting was 17 yes and 3 no. **Jeremy Bowles to send out revised Running Rules to be voted on at October Meeting.**

- D. **BAC Delegate Update-** Mark Malloy is our BAC Delegate and highlighted recent changes approved by the AKC. It was noted that these are options and would have to be adopted by the Federation before going into effect.

- i. A Derby Stakes Trial can be a a Licensed Event
 - ii. FC Title Requirements (linked to above Derby Stakes Trial), a Derby can accumulate no more than one 1st and 40 points towards their Field Champion Title.

- E. **PBGF By-Law Reclassification-** The board brought to the delegates attention that some by-law revisions that were voted on in previous meetings were not updated in the most current by-laws document. It was decided on by the delegates that the PBGF Board will research and address any foreseen updates.

- F. **Junior Handler/Youth Program- Youth Day Event-** The topic was started off with the acknowledgement and appreciation of the Gerhart's efforts in the success of the Youth Program. Mark Malloy expressed interest in holding a Youth Day Event that included Beagles, but much more including horseback riding, fish casting, trapping, clay birds, how to measure dogs. The event can be held at a beagle club and still has beagle activities such as taking a pack to the field and jumping/running a rabbit. This is in the brain-storming phase and welcome all ideas.

- G. Trail Over-lap-** Greg Ritter voiced his concern over too many trials and the negative impact on a lot of clubs. Greg suggested that clubs close to each other hold trials on the same weekend to attract more entries (example Northern Lancaster and Lebanon, then Breakneck and Central). This can be done one week in the west and the next week in the east to avoid a loss of numbers for splitting trialers on the same weekend to different parts of the state. Josh Rissinger tasked Greg with attempting to coordinate the potential of schedule enhancements.
- H. PBGF All-Age Trial – AKC Licensed Trial-** Mike Johnson (Lycoming) made a motion that the PBGF Championship Trail be a licensed Trial. Field Champions are automatically qualified, Non Field Champions must qualify at a PBGF Trial. Entry Fee will be raised to \$20. The Federation would apply through the AKC to classify as a “Special Event”. Taylor Lewis (Lykens Valley) seconded, unanimously approved. **Will be added to agenda for October meeting for vote.**

VIII. **Adjournment:** Lykens Valley, Shamokin