

High Country Newfoundland Club  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
January 19, 2012

The meeting was held at the home of Sue Raney. Attending were Claudia Walters, Patti Pigeon, Maria Rizzuto, Terri Desnica, Sue Raney, Diane Blandina, Betsy Beaver. Attending as guests were John LeVett, Mark Raney and Ed Maass.

The minutes of the previous meetings were distributed. Patti Pigeon/Maria Rizzuto made a motion that the minutes of the October Regular Board Meeting and the December Special Meeting be approved as corrected. That motion unanimously passed. Betsy Beaver/Diane Blandina moved to approve the General Meeting minutes. That motion also passed.

Terri Desnica began the President's report with a discussion regarding how the board should continue to provide clear, accurate communications to each other and to members. Board members should be able to openly discuss all club issues among themselves, and relate specifics of member needs so that HCNC can continue to meet the needs of all members. Communications need to be specific and not include hearsay, rumor or statements that cannot be quantified by members. Terri talked about the need to continue to function professionally as we have done in the last several years and be honest and upfront with all board members. Different points of view can and should be shared. Terri stressed that new ideas from any members are encouraged, and should be brought to the group so that they can be addressed. As well, members who are unhappy with HCNC should be encouraged to direct their comments specifically to members of the board so that they can be acted upon. She stated that we have a good working relationship now, and board members have good intentions, she just wants to make sure communications are productive.

It was mentioned that the board should review the member survey conducted in 2010 to see what members wanted and at that time most members responding were satisfied with the array of activities offered to members, but perhaps members are not aware of all the activities offered or that they are welcome to bring new ideas to the meetings. Discussion among board members also included ways we could provide easy means of contacting members of HCNC when asked about breed information. Claudia Walters volunteered to develop HCNC business cards that members can distribute with contact information and website information. Ideas also included an explanation in the next newsletter of how to use the member interest coding in the membership directory as a means for members to contact others with like interests and for event chairs to contact interested members to participate in events. Members in all states that HCNC represents should be contacted to become "state reporters" for the newsletter to help communicate about newfie happenings in all areas.

Sue Raney reported that she had received correspondence from members to include in other committee discussions. Secretary's report also included the discussion that perhaps that since the board in the past has not supported electronic distribution of the minutes, that may contribute to some confusion among members. Sue Raney/Claudia Walters moved that

minutes be distributed to members electronically to the membership within 30 days following meetings, that board members receive minutes to approve within 2 weeks following a meeting and that board members have one week to approve them in order to distribute minutes to the membership. The motion was approved unanimously.

Betsy Beaver gave the following Treasurer's report: Christmas carting raised approximately \$1,000 and the total for the Rescue account is approximately \$5100. Betsy cautioned the board to remember that this could be quickly diminished by a large influx of rescue dogs. The reserves that HCNC has designated for another National Specialty some time in the future are approximately \$26,000. The HCNC operating fund contains approximately \$6700 to date. Betsy reported that in some years the cash flow position at times can be difficult, due to the timing of events. However, the agility trial proceeds of approximately \$2,000 should allow for stable funding for HCNC events in the future. All requirements for the Secretary of State have been met, and electronic filing is done now.

#### Committee Reports

Linda Morley was not in attendance to provide a Rescue report.

Ron Horn was not in attendance to provide a Craig Hospital report. Volunteers continue to do well there. John Levett mentioned that one of the volunteers, Leah Schlagel, may be moving out of state.

Diane Blandina reported that plans for the banquet are going well. She suggested that members can bring their Colorado items for the National Basket to the banquet. Melissa Lundgren will make doggie cookies for banquet favors. She is looking for door prize items as well. She asked Sue Raney to send more reminders so that members can participate. There was reported to be some confusion regarding members understanding that they were qualified for an award. Diane will address that in the upcoming information she distributes to the members through the email list.

Maria Rizzuto and Patti Pigeon reported that the spring draft tests will be May 12 and 13. Judges are Geree Willis and Sue Raney. The committee is Patti Pigeon, Chair, Maria Rizzuto, secretary and Ed Maass, third committee member. Lions Park will be the site of the test. It is undergoing renovation this winter (filling in the lake) but will be ready for Spring.

Sue Raney submitted a written request as per the bylaws to chair the fall draft tests. The board appointed her to that position. Sue stated that the tests for fall will be in October, date and place TBA. She will recruit a committee for the event.

Carting seminar/multiple practice opportunities for advanced dogs preparing for the spring tests will be developed for Spring. The spring draft test committee will work on this.

Patti Pigeon also proposed a "Love your Newfoundland" event. She suggested that this may be a fun way to kick off a series of informal gatherings for members to get to know each other, do

some fun things with their dogs, and develop a more broad training and activity program for members based on what members interests. This first activity, open to all members, will be held on Feb 26. An indoor site (Ewe R Here Farm) will allow for inclement weather not to be a problem. The first gathering will involve some training games, basic skills and visiting to assess member interests and find out where members would like to be more involved, thus developing the later activities. There will be multiple levels of activities based on member wishes. The progression of this event can incorporate land work for water and beginning draft as well. The board unanimously supported the project. Patti will coordinate the activity.

Patti Pigeon reported that the permits for Lake Chatfield use have been confirmed for 2012 water tests. Use of the lake continues to be limited due to the high use of many other groups (divers, etc) at the lake. A water clinic with beginning land work can be scheduled, and sites will be investigated to hold a water clinic as well.

Claudia Walters reported that the Meet the Breed event has good participation. She proposed a display of large blow up photos of newfs doing different activities to decorate the area. The board approved expenses toward those decorations. Claudia will also provide educational materials, membership applications, etc. Good support from members on dogs to represent HCNC already.

The deadline for the National Ad submission is March 1. Claudia will prepare an ad for submission.

Terri Desnica reported that the plans for the Conformation, Obedience and Rally Fun Match are continuing. Date is August 11, before the Greeley show. Terri will once again distribute flyers to all summer shows in the area to encourage participation. She mentioned that she hoped more Newfie members will participate as there were no Newfoundlands entered in conformation at the last fun match. Maria Rizzuto will assist with scheduling judges. Diane Blandina volunteered to judge but was not sure she would be in town and will have to confirm her availability at a later date.

Patti Pigeon reported that the AKC paperwork has been submitted for the Agility trial, which is a fundraiser for working events. The event will require just a few members participation for one day only. Betsy Beaver will provide Patti with proof of insurance forms as required for the event.

Diane Blandina reported that the nominating committee slate has been presented. Sue Raney clarified that since the nominating committee has proposed opposed positions for the coming term, that there will be an election and the process will follow the election process just like NCA elections. Per the bylaws, ballots will be mailed and counted at the Annual Meeting.

Terri Desnica led discussion to schedule the remaining meetings for this term. It was discussed that general meetings will continue to be held in public locations. The spring banquet and the Sunday draft test were selected for general meeting locations. The meeting at the Sunday draft

test will once again be the Annual Meeting as we did last year. A board meeting in the spring was discussed but not finally scheduled. Discussion regarding the location of board meetings included that due to the length of the meetings, it is difficult to hold them at public places. Diane Blandina volunteered to host the next board meeting since Patti, Maria and Sue have all hosted meetings already.

The show site for the next Regional Specialty was discussed. John LeVett commented that the previous regional was one of the best he had attended and expressed concern that we are moving away from the show site without confirming that is what all members want. Diane Blandina reported that she has not yet been able to find out the information to see if HCNC could even have a Regional show in February on the same day as the Peak to Peak show, although some non-members who show from other areas of the country would be interested in attending if we could offer two shows to enter on the same date, making 6 shows for Newfs that cluster. After more discussion, the board decided that the members will be surveyed for their input regarding the location of the next Regional and will include shows from around the area. The survey will go out to the members once the possibility of an independent specialty on the Peak to Peak date for 2013 is officially confirmed. Claudia Walters again confirmed that she will chair the next Regional if the show does not conflict with her peak periods at work.

Sue Raney reported that she received a proposal from Cathy Sands to offer Supported Entries in all the states that HCNC covers. Cathy will coordinate the endeavor and will contact members in those states to coordinate the local efforts of each supported entry. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the board.

Sue Raney then reported that Ed Maass has volunteered to chair the next Newf Fun Day. He was unanimously appointed to the position. Ed discussed some ideas for involving people and dogs in a wide variety of activities, providing some fun and prizes for everyone. Ed would like to hold the event in the mountains for the summer and will look at locations for June 24<sup>th</sup>. Sue Raney volunteered to help Ed with the day and volunteers from the membership will be sought to help with the planning.

Membership dues were reviewed. It was unanimously decided to leave dues the same for this upcoming year.

Terri Desnica proposed a new event for members called Doggie Spa Day. Dogs can have toenail trimming, ear and feet trims, massages. November 3 was set for the date. Terri will coordinate the activity, and host it at Hounds on the Hill.

The need to update the website was discussed. Sue Raney will work with Anne Beck to determine her continued interest and get updates underway.

A Facebook page for HCNC was proposed by Diane Blandina. After some discussion, Diane agreed to develop guidelines for posting and submit them to the board for further discussion.

Administrator for the site will be necessary and more information will need to be considered although Facebook is a popular way to share social networking now and may work well for members.

Video conferencing and teleconferencing were discussed as options for board or general meetings. Services vary and it will depend on specific needs whether or not they are affordable approaches to delivering meeting information. The discussion included the philosophical aspects of inclusion and participation. No decisions on these technical matters were made.

Patti Pigeon proposed that the board consider another health clinic like she organized in 2010. The clinic will help promote the health of the breed and hope to encourage breeders to take advantage of lower cost testing. The board approved Patti to coordinate this based on member interests.

Claudia Walters reported that the Regional Club Committee network has sporadic activity which she continues to monitor and participate in. Due to the lateness of the meeting, Claudia will report on these items at another meeting.

John LeVett reported that the left trailer light has gone out. The board approved the Draft committee to repair the trailer as needed.

Diane Blandina mentioned that she was confused on whether or not we had a rescue program. Some members had asked her why we were raising money for rescue if we did not provide rescue services. The board reminded her that we do indeed have a Rescue program coordinated by Linda Morley Roser, who has been diligent in working for rescue for some time now, and has provided many reports to general and board meetings in the past. Linda will be asked to provide the membership with a Rescue update and get future updates in the newsletter as well. The remainder of the board clarified that while there was some discussion in Spring of 2009 to provide funds to another rescue group, that group did not accept funding from us and has since had some internal issues. Since that time, Linda has been active in providing foster, rescue and adoption services as needed in the area. She will be asked to provide the membership with a recent update.

Patti Pigeon reported that she read in the newsletter that there was a judges wine and cheese gathering on the Saturday of the fall draft test to which she, as one of the judges, was not invited. It was also noted that some of the entrants were also not invited or provided with event details. Diane Blandina apologized for the error.

The meeting concluded at 11:30 pm. The following Saturday, January 21<sup>th</sup>, one last item of business was conducted by the board via email. Cathy Sands was unanimously appointed to fill the vacancy on the board of directors for the term concluding in 2012.