

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
New London County 4H Fair Board Meeting Minutes

The New London County (NLC) Fair Board meeting came to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and 4H Pledge. Introductions commenced. In Secretary Krista's absence, President Liz read the minutes aloud. An edit was requested to correct the spelling of Kristina as Dairy Superintendent. Following review, Ella moved to accept the minutes as amended, Lily seconded, and the minutes were approved. As of this meeting, the treasury currently has \$19,759.72. Olivia moved to place the Treasurer's Report on file, Ella seconded, and the motion passed. No reports were given for Business, Ag, or Exhibit Hall.

Old Business

The NLC Fair Board reviewed the list of final nominations/selection of Fair Board adult mentors and executive board advisors listed on the backside of the Nov. 5, 2024 minutes. Several slots are still open, including: Awards Ceremony, Dog, Ice Cream Social, Olympics/Games, and Swine. Lucy moved to accept the list as presented. Natalie seconded. The motion passed with thanks to all those who have agreed to serve.

This year's Recognition Night was then discussed with Marc thanking Padraig for teaching some of the dances in light of not being able to secure a caller for the traditional square dancing at the event. Everyone liked having the event on Saturday. A suggestion was made to schedule the date for Recognition Night now and consider a new, larger space for the event. Marc will reach out to a suggested contact in Lebanon to discuss using the Lebanon Town Hall facility. Many 4Hers also missed seeing the traditional slideshow at Recognition Night. Marc said there were not enough photos to fill a slideshow this year. Some discussion then occurred around getting an intern or parent volunteer to handle photos. It was also suggested that the group consider bringing a speaker to the event to share their experience representing 4H nationally, along with inviting state representatives to attend. Better decorating, maybe having karaoke, and having the event feel more like a celebration were also suggested.

Marc brought up discussion on how best to present the Spirit Award winner on the plaque – all five 4H pillar award-winners versus one spirit winner? The Fair Board felt having all five would be best. Marc suggested a subcommittee be created to help with Recognition Night.

New Business

The dates for the 2026 NLC Fair were discussed with the Board considering August 7-9, 2026. CeCe moved to accept the 2026 dates, Ella seconded, and the motion passed. The 2025 dates are set for August 8-10, 2025, and the Board believes the 2026 dates help to keep the NLC Fair scheduling consistent with prior years. This timeframe also offers a break in between other regional fairs.

The next topic discussed was the Association of CT Fair dues invoice for \$15. The fee gets NLC 4H listed on the Association's materials and website. Arnie encouraged Board members to attend the Association's meetings and said that an adult leader can help with this.

Gate prices were then brought up for 2025 with Ella moving to keep prices the same as 2024. Kailah seconded, and the motion passed. The group then talked about the date for officer/superintendent and mentor training day. Following a lot of discussion, Olivia moved to make the date Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 10 a.m. to noon with the snow day being Saturday, February 1. Lily seconded, and the motion passed.

The last topic discussed involved supporting 4Hers interested in attending the annual Ignite by 4H: The Ultimate Teen Summit each spring. The Board currently provides \$200 to help with conference expenses, but with the budget being in good shape this year, the Board discussed raising the amount of financial assistance given. CeCe then moved to increase the support amount to \$300, which Lucy seconded. The motion passed.

Marc shared that a toy drive is happening now through December 15 to help kids in foster care. More information is in the Friday Flash.

Kailah moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m., Ella seconded, and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Abby Gerboth for Krista.