

## SPRING VMA MEETING

Meeting is officially called to order @ 12:45pm.

First up is the **President's report**

- The discussion centered around the closing of Blue Planet Reef Farms. They had contacted Erik and informed him that they were going out of business but would like to open for one last day in order to give the VMA a chance to buy fish, live rock and equipment at a discounted price. The details surrounding their closing were a little sketchy as there were conflicting reports about the real reason behind their going out of business. A date of Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup> was tentatively set but the lack of further communication from the head of BPRF left that in doubt.

Motion to end President's report was passed.

Next up was the **Vice President's report**

- The previous meetings minutes were read. Some of the topics from that meeting were:
  - The institution of our club By-Laws which were adapted from the Boston Reefers Society (with Greg Hiller's consent) to serve the VMA.
  - Member structure was also discussed as we adopted 3 different categories of membership: **Due-paying** (a \$20 annual fee which get's you discounts at The Pet Advantage as well as some of our online sponsors and allows you to take place in any decisions made by the VMA on issues that require a vote), **Non-Due paying** (access to the message boards and are allowed to attend meetings, workshops etc. BUT no discount at PA or our online sponsors and you cannot take part in any VMA meeting votes on club related issues) and **Honorary** (typically anyone who the VMA views as having gone above and beyond to help support the club and/or the hobby in general...one example is our previous guest speaker Scott Fellman).
  - The implementation of more online banner ads from sponsor's in order to generate revenue for the club as well as provide due-paying club members discounts. Some mebers were concerned about malicious spyware, adware etc. from clicking on sponsor links but Erik explained to them how the club selects our sponsors the security measures taken. It was agreed that the VMA will become more proactive in seeking out sponsors in the future.
  - The issue of No Flaming on the VMA message boards was brought up, citing a recent incident between a couple of newer members on the Selling Forum. Other message boards have a strict No Flaming policy where you only comment on a members post if you're interested in buying what they are selling...if you think the price is too high you simply don't purchase the item but under no

circumstances are you to publicly comment on their post for everyone to see telling them their prices are too high as that is your own personal opinion which could negatively affect possible sales to other members. This policy was voted on and adopted by the VMA as well.

- Once the discussion portion of the meeting wrapped up we moved downstairs to the basement for an acrylic demonstration by Erik showing how easy it is to build useful equipment from acrylic with just a few necessary tools. A small nano tank or quarantine tank doesn't have to be expensive.
- After the demonstration we moved back upstairs where we raffled off some very generous donations from The Pet Advantage and had a small frag swap.

Motion to end the Vice President's Report was passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Randy reported that the club had a balance of \$228.82 in its account.

Motion to accept the report as read was passed.

### **VMA Board Nominations**

- Nominations were decided
  - President – Erik Engstrom (re-elected)
  - Vice President – Justin Lane (re-elected)
  - Treasurer – Randy Keating (re-elected)
  - Secretary – Jen Engstrom (newly elected)

Motion to accept nominated officers as elected was passed.

### **Old Business Report**

- The topic of pursuing more vendor sponsorship was discussed again and it was agreed that the Vice President would actively seek out new sponsors for the VMA to partner with.

Motion to end Old Business Report was passed.

### **New Business Report**

- The new business report mostly centered around the local news reporting that Rob Hintze (aka-The Basement Breeder) was arrested for shoplifting live fish from Noah's Ark Pet Center in Colchester and what if anything the VMA should do about this situation. Rob was given the opportunity to explain his side of the story after a post was started about his actions. Even after some derogatory comments in his original post he was warned to keep it clean and failed to do so at which time he was banned from the message board. Some members with connections did some checking up with the local

authorities to see if Rob's story about trying to go through the proper legal channels before resorting to taking the law into his own hands was true and discovered that anything filed by Rob was sealed until his court date after which it would become public record. After much discussion at the meeting it was agreed upon that he should remain banned until his court date of April 9, 2010. The VMA will always stand for the proper care of all marine livestock but we DO NOT stand for taking the law into your own hands if the legal system doesn't get you the results you seek!

Motion to end New Business Report was passed.

### **Due's Report**

- The subject of dues renewal was explained. Our club dues are good from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. You will need to renew your club dues on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year if you wish to remain a due-paying member and receive due-paying member benefits. This can be done either at the Spring meeting by cash or check and handed to the Treasurer, mailed to the Treasurer or you can use our new VMA PayPal option on the web site. Members are free to become due-paying members at any time and can use the above methods of payment, the price for membership will remain the same (\$20) until November in which it will be prorated until March 31<sup>st</sup> (the end of our fiscal year).

Motion to end Due's Report was passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was passed @ 2:35pm.