

NYSHC Meeting April 18, 2009

Meeting called to order by George King at 10:15 am.

Colleen Segerra reported on a cruelty case in Climax, NY that she is involved in, including the history of a yearling from that case, that she was going to pick up from Cornell Vet Hospital. A motion to donate \$500.00 from the residual show program account to the Equine Rescue was made by Marsha Himler and seconded by Barb Cunningham. Motion passed and a check was made out to Cornell University (to help with the costs incurred in the yearling's care).

Minutes were read by Teresa Passaretti. Motion to accept was made by Judy Dalton and seconded by Karen Lassell. Minutes were accepted with one correction by Marsha Himler.

Treasurer's report was emailed prior to meeting to all members and it was explained by Steve Ropel. Steve suggested consolidating some of the accounts to get better interest rates and have only one checkbook. Discussion followed this suggestion and it was decided that Steve will investigate options for consolidation to get the best interest rates and report back at next meeting. A motion to empower Steve Ropel to investigate banking options was made by Dru Malavase and seconded by Marsha Himler. Motion passed. Steve went on to report that membership numbers are ahead of last year's numbers at the same time of year but may not increase much more. Letters will be sent out to follow up on membership by Steve.

Marsha Himler gave an update on the Horse Park. There is a new IRS reviewer. They are hoping to get the 501C3 set up within the next 3 months in order to begin acquiring land and start a capital donation drive. There is a land owner who is willing to donate 400 acres but only if we have the 501C3 in place.

Marsha also explained the Equine Economic Summit to those who were not familiar with it and said that she would put together a packet for presentations and look into grants etc for funding for the summit. There was some discussion about the need and benefits of having an Equine Economic Summit.

Broke briefly for coffee at 11:10 am and resumed meeting at 11:23 am

Sara Chevako gave an update on the Trail Grant status, including explanation of the re-distribution of funds voted on at the last meeting. All groups that received grant money will have signage thanking the NYSHC for their support. This has generated a lot of good will around the state for horse groups.

The ELCR has requested that we have a representative and Sara Chevako will be our representative with Leah Leising as her back up. George King will forward all info from ELCR to membership as he receives it and noted that we are linked on their website.

An insurance update was made by Deb Morano. She suggested that neighboring chapters who use the same place for events should let her know and she can get a certificate for the whole year on that one venue rather than for each event. If there are more than 3 events held at the same place it will save money to get a yearly certificate rather than separate ones for each event. She reminded members that clubs that are members of the NYSHC still need their own insurance as only events sponsored by the NYSHC can be insured under our insurance.

The question was raised whether or not one letter to the DEC could be written for the whole state rather than one for each region. At present we write multiple certificates to multiple branches. Sara Chevako will investigate the possibility of doing this.

Deb Morano also brought to our attention a tragic situation where some horses were fed non-horse specific feed which contained Monensin which can be fatal to horses. Steve Ropel will work on getting this information out to the public through Ag and Markets. Please email Deb if you have any other ideas on how to further spread this information. Leah Leising reported on the Ride and Drive Program. There are presently 33 paid members, some of whom joined NYSHC in order to participate in the Ride and Drive Program. She discussed the planned activities for the entire weekend of the annual meeting which included trail rides, talks, cook out, and wine tour/tasting. She has packets containing all the information for those who want them. The trail rides will only be for NYSHC members but the rest of the activities will be open to non-members. Bob Pfohl reported on the displays and asked for help with Farm Days on August 11-13. Broke for lunch at 12:30 pm.

Meeting resumed at 1:18 pm.

We had a guest speaker, Jean Griffiths, from Cornell, who spoke about a new professor, Samantha Brooks who is taking the position left vacant by Harold Hintz. She also indicated that there is no major risk of CEM in NY State at this time. Jean also volunteered to work with Steve Ropel and Deb Morano about the Monensin problem. Dru Malavase discussed Equine Disaster Planning and funding available from Homeland Security for Equine related education. She also told us about new helmets that have been developed and are in use by Irish steeplechase jockeys that are monitored from the field to determine when a hard "head hit" has occurred.

Sharon Young Slate discussed the success of the Hold Your Horses booklet. There was also discussion of the NYSHC's new booklet, which we would like to have ready for the Farm Days display.

Carolyn Moore reported on the Spring Ride at Brookfield and the Fall ride. The 100 competitive ride is cancelled this year, they are running a 30/50 ride in its place.

Mary Ann Byers and Marsha Himler gave an update on the status of the Awards Program. A motion was made by Bob Pfohl, seconded by Barb Cunningham, to have the NYSHC pay for the take home trophies for all NYSHC awards. Motion passed. The idea of a Legislator of the year award was also discussed.

George King discussed Board membership and attendance. Sue Etherington has resigned and several other members have missed more than 3 meetings. George recommended that Shannon Budnik become the director for Mid-Hudson. A motion was made by Bob Pfohl, seconded by Diane Cunningham, to appoint Shannon Budnik as Mid-Hudson director. Motion passed. The Westchester chapter has not been to a meeting in 4 years so Deb Morano will go to the next meeting to tell them that if they do not contact us their chapter will be dropped from NYSHC. Much discussion followed. We would like all chapters to attend meetings. George King will send out letters to all board members who will be "released" due to lack of attendance in accordance with the by-laws.

George also discussed the newsletter. We need someone to take over doing the newsletter and we also need new software. Steve Ropel will obtain the new software and Mary Szarek volunteered to do the layout if someone else would collect the data and articles. George will work with Mary on the newsletter.

Lynndee Kemmett sent a report on her research on council websites, along with recommendations for our website.

Reports on chapter activities were made.

Steve Ropel moved to adjourn meeting, motion seconded by Shannon Budnik. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Members in attendance: George King, Teresa Passaretti, Debbie Morano, Charlie Sawicki, Steve Ropel, Barb Cunningham, Mary Szarek, Janet Pfohl, Bob Pfohl, Carolyn Moore, Susan Knauer, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Judy Dalton, Mary Ann Byers, Susan Braen, Mark Gisselbrecht, Vera Toth, Michelle Crew, Karen Lassell, Jean Rhud, Jean Arledge, Dru Malavase, Diane Jones, Sara Chevako, Sharon Young Slate, Gary Slate, Jean Griffiths, Heidi King, Shannon Budnik, Chip Watson, Marsha Himler, Colleen Segerra