

NYSHC Meeting Minutes April 28, 2007

Called to order at 10:22 a.m.

George King asked for any changes to the minutes from the Dec meeting. Marsha Himler moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Chip Watson. Ayes carried.

Steve Ropel handed out the Treasurers report. He reported that we had ~\$3000.00 more this year than last. The trail funds are in CDs. The operating accounts for M&T general and M\$T show are both up from last year.

Steve said that although the year runs from Jan to Dec, he reported income and expenses from Nov. to present because membership begins Nov. 1. Total net balance is ~\$5900.00. On the back of the report is the show program income and expenditures which show a net loss of \$17.06. Steve indicated that this was because no monies for the show program have been received as yet.

Marsha Himler asked about the \$1000.00 that had been allocated for advertising and Steve said that he hadn't made a special account for it. George King said to use \$1000.00 from the residual MHM program. The old MHM program is now the new M\$T show program. Marcia indicated that she had thought the \$1000 would be in a separate column so expenses could be taken from it. Steve said he could do that.

Steve asked about the prize money-it comes from the divisional pots. Steve asked everyone that submitted monies spent should indicate what they were used for so he could subtract funds from the appropriate account.

Question was raised, should we add a column indicating the amount budgeted for each item. Steve said yes and he will do so.

Also on the back of the report was the membership report through April 8th. A question was raised about the membership numbers on the back. It is broken down by type not by dollar amounts. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by George King, seconded by Lynndee Kemmet. Motion passed.

Steve got a bill from Sept. 2006 for \$500 that he is not sure what it was for. It was thought that it was for Woodland Screening for golf shirts. Deb Moran said to ask Sue ?? about it-possibly under Ways and Means. She may have ordered them and the company sent the bill to Steve. Please notify Steve if a bill is coming for services so he knows what it is for. There is a form to send to him. George will get in touch with Sue to see if the items were received.

We need to amend some previous authorization. Mary Ann Byers spoke about the trophies that were found about 6 months ago. She had asked for monies to have them re-furnished and \$100 was allocated for this purpose. The large trophy, a historic trophy is an old Revere bowl, very valuable with a heavy silver base was valued at \$3500. The original Empire State Horse Council trophy had copper showing through and had to be re-plated. It was valued at \$1500. The total bill came to \$400.

We need to decide what to use them for and the suggestion was made that when used the name of the recipient goes on the original and the recipient receives a smaller trophy to keep. George King suggested we pay the bill. Susan Braer moved to pay the bill, Bob Pfohl seconded the motion. Motion passed.

George wants to recommend that we have a perpetual trophy for horse person of the year award. We don't have one for lifetime achievement. Would like to have plaques

attached to this one for the lifetime achievement awards. Not necessarily horse council people, but people we vote on. Please think about this and also about a smaller trophy to keep and we will vote on this at the next meeting. Also need to decide where to keep the trophies.

Marsha Himler reported on the Horse Park. We can't use the title New York State Horse Park we have to take the word "State" out of the title. This project has been in the works for 8 or 9 years now. She has found the right person to help, Carol O?? the Saratoga Supervisor. They now have a logo and are constructing a website: NYHorsePark.org. They need funding. Land in Saratoga is expensive, but not in comparison to the rest of the country. Approximately 300 acres are needed and they are working with land conservation. The Board of Supervisors is getting involved and it would be best if a not-for-profit group would run it. States usually buy the land for these projects and donate it having not-for-profit groups run them. She passed out a brochure. At the equine economics summit there was talk about horse parks and the need to not be left behind. Contact with senators, assemblymen and others needs to be established.

A lot of money will be needed but it was pointed out that the annual impact of HITS, which is only used for ~ 3 months per year is ~\$34 million.

Questions were raised about the use of the facility. Would it be used just for shows? No, but the majority of the income would be from shows--80%. Also could be used as a convention center. It would have multiple arenas some indoor due to the weather in this area. Long term vision is to be used for horse sales, llama shows and other uses.

Virginia uses theirs for wedding and other conventions also. Not all horses but shows bring in the biggest amount of money. The biggest impact would be on the local economy such as hay and feed suppliers, hotels, restaurants etc. Would also impact on taxes. It was asked if it could be used for trail riding and the answer was it depended on the location and set up of the land, they would like it to at least have access to trails.

They would like it to have camping areas for all aspects of horse use, including trails and shows.

Mary Ann mentioned that the Kentucky State Park has clinics and famous horses stabled on the premises. Saratoga already has the museum so they wouldn't want to compete with them. In the long range view they would like to have something like that though. Having shows there is the way to start and build from there. They have contacted architects and designers (from Kentucky and elsewhere) for ideas. Still trying for the acreage. Steve asked where the \$34 million number came from? A newspaper article was the source. The impact on Saratoga? Don't know but they do have some information on the impact from last year's racing program. The 2 pages on the 3 large shows in Saratoga showed about 1 million dollars.

Maryland did a study that might be applicable to our scenario. Chip mentioned that the AQHA has information on residual impact from horse shows. Takes into account people per horse etc. and amounted to ~ \$140/day/person.

Next report was from the show program from Marsha Himler. Her figures started with 903 Jumpers, 207 Hunters and 103 Barrels. As of today there are in CAJ- 1903 Jumpers, 907 Hunters, 703 Barrels, 500 WHUS and 500 WHOF, and 200 general. Nominations are slow, there are presently 5 working hunter shows, 7 barrel shows, 12 hunter pleasure shows and 24 CAJ shows registered. She feels more people will join after the season begins.

HITS has added some shows. It is slow right now, lost impetus with the break so it will take some time to grow. It will begin to pay for itself as it progresses. There is a couple of hundred dollars in that Steve hasn't posted yet including an \$1100 check from Mary Ann from jumpers.

Question was raised about number of competitors. If there are only 1 or 2 do you have to have more for a class? Yes, that was a problem last year.

Wording has been changed on forms to say the \$65 nominating fee includes the "free" Horse Council membership. Some people object it can't be given away. It was suggested to give it 5 years and re-evaluate then. As long as it supports itself than it should go forward.

Advertisements have been placed in Tristate Horse, Expo issue. A full-page ad was placed in HorseBits (\$125) and 1 1/3 page add will be run each month (\$75). Advertising is too expensive in other publications. December's ad was just a Happy Holidays type ad.

If anyone knows of smaller flyers that cost less for advertising, please let Marsha know. The Chronicle wanted \$300 for a small ad-just not enough "bang for the buck". The Equine Journal was also expensive. Only did ~100 flyers over the mailing list numbers, she has 25 at home and it is on the website.

Janet wants some flyers to pass out, Marsha will give her some. George wants to emphasize that we need to keep this going.

George brought up a subject not on the agenda since we are a bit ahead of time. He gets brochures from Horse councils around the country. In the past we didn't do booths but now that Bob Pfohl has taken over we are doing a lot more. We have 2 brochures, Fit for Sale and Minimum Standards of Care. Want to have Bob copy ~1000 for Equine Affair. We should have the literature committee look at the brochures to use as a template for making our own to have for booths.

Mary Ann asked if the Horse Policy could be used also? Yes, if we are going to continue it. Other suggestions, "Road Safety", "Sharing Trails", and "Interested in Owning-Is Love Enough?". Can a Cooperative Extension person help with this? Cornell wouldn't, but could we pull some ideas from the other CCE's. George doesn't care where the info comes from. Suggested that 1 or 2 people look through these and come up with something for the next meeting. Lynndee Kemmet and Karen ?? volunteered to look at them. This should give us something for the booths.

Sue has a bunch of brochures and she will get copies of them to Lynndee. Jean has some from Westchester on barn fires and safety. She will look for them also. We have some money set aside for it and it will give us more exposure.

Another item to discuss is the display we have. Bob Pfohl has the old one (2 years old). There are better fold up displays available and George recommended we obtain one of them and turn it over to Bob for the booth. Karen suggested that we get one with a carrying case so it can be shipped etc if necessary. George and Bob will explore options and hold an E-vote.

Last subject before break: Do we want to substitute a teleconference for a regular meeting? Yes, in the winter especially. George has been in contact with 4 vendors. Sue said that State Ed has done this with teleconference centers with the cooperative extensions and thought that might be less expensive than a vendor. Farm Bureau has used this.

Steve pointed out that our meetings cost about \$300 and the cost of having a vendor do the teleconference would be around \$150. You would dial into a central number, give an access code and you are then in the teleconference. Could email ahead of time to talk about it. The point to be made is this is a way to hold winter meetings.

Steve Ropel made a motion to look into it. Seconded by Lynndee Kemmet. Motion passed with a few in opposition.

Sara Chevako reported on the status of the Trail Grant. She first recapped the history of the grant up to the last meeting including the recipients and the amount each group would receive. The four groups were as follows: CAEA with \$6000 to be used for a parking lot on private land adjacent to the seasonal roads in the area of Madison County, with an eventual access to DeRuyter State Forest. Catt-Chau Chapter of NYSHC, Inc. with \$29,000 to implement Adopt-a-Natural Resources agreement to improve trails at Pineapple Junction in the Pine Hill/South Valley area in Cattaraugus county. Seneca White Deer, Inc with \$30,000 to be used for trailhead and trail improvement on the site of the former Seneca Army Depot. This was contingent upon Seneca White Deer Inc obtaining control of the property by 11/30/07. And Madison County Fair Board with \$10,000 to be used for trail connecting the Fairgrounds to the State Horse Trail system at Brookfield contingent upon their submission of a complete proposal.

Sara next reported on the current status of the recipients. Both CAA and Catt-Chau have signed Memoranda of Understanding and are cleared to begin their projects. Seneca White Deer, Inc is still struggling to gain control of the Depot property and their grant is on hold. Madison County Fair Board failed to submit a full proposal for their project, so, upon recommendation of Daryl Jensen NYSHC VP who was negotiating with them, the grant was rescinded and the grant process was re-opened with a deadline for submissions of April 26, 2007 for presentation at the NYSHC Board meeting of 4/28/07.

Five proposals have been received. They are as follows:

- 1) Cazenovia Area Equine Association (CAEA) Stoney Pond State Forest, parking lot on adjacent Madison county land. Request is for \$7000.
- 2) Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Chapter of NYSHC, Inc.(Catt-Chau) Boutwell-Canadaway Creek Connector Trail Project for \$9,900
- 3) Friends of Hammond Hill, Trail Tread Improvement on Hammond Hill State Forest horse trails, Tompkins County. This was a two-tiered request: partial cost would be \$6200 and full cost would be \$18,000.
- 4) New York State Plantation Walking Horse Club, Tuller Hill, Cortland County, trailhead parking lot. Two different requests, one full and one partial. Full request for \$18,100 and partial for \$10,000.
- 5)Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association for Signage and Brochures encouraging equine use on the rail trail, Ulster County. Request for \$1970. This is a 12 mile rail trail and the money would be used to re-do signage to emphasize horse use on the trail.

Most of the groups have indicated that they would be able to perform partial activity on their projects even if they did not get complete funding. Complete funding for all would amount to \$46,970. Of this \$10,000 would be allocated at this time.

Sara will recuse herself from recommendations due to the fact that she belongs to two of the groups requesting grant money. She will give us pros and cons of each proposal and has prepared ballots for voting. She thought that voting on 2 of the 5 and then making a final decision would be the way to go. Any proposals not funded would remain held in

an active state in case Seneca White Deer were unable to achieve their goals and that \$30,000 could be re-allocated to the groups held in active state without need to seek additional proposals.

It was suggested that all groups receiving grant money should acknowledge NYSHC's support.

Proposals and Pros and Cons of each proposal:

#1 Cazenovia Area Equine Association proposal: To create a parking lot on property owned by Madison County adjacent to Stoney Pond State Forest in the Tioughnioga Unit Management Area. Stoney Pond has horse trails but no place off the road to park trucks and trailers.

Pros: Enable much greater use of horse trails in this forest. Is not sited on state lands, so not affected by the still incomplete Tioughnioga UMP. It is keeping with the original intent of the grant (to use private lands to provide access to state lands). And it is enthusiastically supported by Madison County Planning.

Cons: Will be the second grant to this group, though the sites are 20 miles apart.

#2 Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Chapter of NYSHC, Inc. proposal: Create a multi-use connector trail between trails in 2 state forests in Chautauqua county, Boutwell Hill State Forest and Canadaway Creek Wildlife Management Area. Secure easements from 3 landowners to put a 1.5 mile share use trail through their farms for 4-season use.

Pros: Will connect 2 major trail systems providing more extensive riding opportunities. Will serve as a demonstration project for future trail easement projects and provide an educational opportunity for legislators and other interested parties. Will provide economic benefit to the area by attracting riders and drivers from outside the immediate area. The 3 landowners are all happy to participate in the project and have already signed on. Project is exactly the intent of the original grant. There is significant and enthusiastic support from user groups and members of the community.

Cons: Will be second grant for this group also, though sites are in two different counties.

#3 Friends of Hammond Hill proposal: Improve trail conditions on 1550 to 2550 linear feet of multi-use trail within the Hammond Hill State Forest in Tompkins county. The trails are heavily used and need drainage improvements, culverts, geo fabric, and gravel. Work will be performed according to their Adopt-a Natural Resource Agreement with the DEC.

Pros: New applicant in new location which would spread the benefits throughout the state. The group already does maintenance on these trails on concert with other user disciplines (not just for horse use). And there is enthusiastic support from users and community.

Cons: The work would be on state land, which was not the original intent of the grant though this was put aside in the previous grant round.

#4 New York State Plantation Walking Horse Club proposal: To construct a trailhead and parking area in Tuller Hill State Forest, Town of Virgil, Cortland county. Tuller Hill

has DEC-approved trails but not used very much because there is no parking. Work will be incorporated into NYSPWHC's Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement with the DEC for clearing and maintaining trails in Tuller Hill. NYSPWHC has also put up \$800 from their treasury as their financial contribution to the project.

Pros: Both the Town of Virgil and the owner of Greek Peek support the project and regard it as beneficial for the area. The Town of Virgil will supply and install culverts for the 2 driveways into the parking lot. The parking area will open a seldom-used horse trail system for increased use. NYSPWHC members will work with members of the Central NY Horse Club on the trails, combining the efforts of two organizations. And NYSPWHC will contribute financing of their own.

Cons: Work will be done on State land, not the original intent of the grant. Total project cost is more than present grant funding but the DEC liaison assures them that whatever work is done would be beneficial.

#5 Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association proposal: The 12-mile trail, running through the Town and Village of New Paltz and Gardiner, is a multi-use trail. It is heavily used and vigilantly maintained. They propose to upgrade their signage to encourage horseback riders, including locations of parking areas for trailers. They will also upgrade their brochures to highlight equine usage.

Pros: It is the only grant request from the eastern part of the state. It would promote equine trail use in a heavily populated area on a multi-use trail. It is a relatively modest sum, and, if NYSHC were thanked as the sponsor, would probably generate a great deal of favorable publicity.

Cons: It is somewhat removed from the original intent of the grant.

Sara would like to make 3 motions at this time:

1. Move that NYSHC approve partial funding of one or more of the trail grant proposals to be voted on here. The exact amount would be determined by discussion, following a tabulation of the votes. This would allow allocation of the full amount of the grant (\$10,000). Motion was seconded by Karen Lassell and approved
2. Move that we vote by paper ballot on these proposals, with each Board member selecting two different proposals. It would not be allowed to vote for the same proposal twice on the same ballot. The ballots will be tabulated, and the results presented to the Board. It is anticipated that the top 1-3 proposals might be at least partially fundable, and the Board could agree on those allocations immediately following the vote. Lynndee Kemmet seconded motion. Sue asked that there be some discussion following the motion. Question was raised about the possibility of further grant money becoming available. It was pointed out that if we didn't spend the current grant money reasonably we would not have this opportunity again. Motion was voted on and passed.
3. Move that we also hold in reserve all proposals, which did not receive full funding, including those which only received partial funding and are commencing their projects with those partial monies. In the event that Seneca White Deer Inc. is not able to undertake their project, we reallocate the funding, which had been allocated to that project (\$30,000) to the reserved proposals. Seconded by Kathy

Pratt. Steve Ropel asked for clarification on amounts proposed by NYSPWHC, this was \$18,100 for full funding and \$10,000 for partial funding. Reminded that the money allocated for Seneca White Deer Inc. had a firm time restriction of 11/30/07. Motion passed.

Discussion followed about the possibility of Ethanol Biomass building an Ethanol plant on the Depot property. They would maintain the fence but would also plant trees, mainly willows, which would drive the deer out. Pointed out that this is Seneca White Deer Inc's fight but that we would support them.

Sara asked that everyone look at the information she has for the 5 proposals before voting and George reminded people who are not on the board that they cannot vote.

There is an open position in Western Chapter. Bob Leising moved to replace Terry Parker. Seconded by Lynndee Kemmet.

There was a procedural question about the ballots, should we put our names on them. Determined that we should not. Did we have a quorum? Yes, George has two proxies. Janet will help Sara tally the votes. Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:55.

Meeting reconvened at 12:53.

Sara passed out ballots. There was a request for clarification on the third motion. Motion to apply monies to also apply to prior grants as well (i.e. already funded proposals). Yes, it could apply to all open proposals.

Several members spoke advocating some of the proposals. Sue talked about the Hammond Hill proposal stating that Anne Leonard was one of the property owners involved and that she had advocated for horses and that all trail users have been polite to the horse users. Chip advocated for the Wallkill proposal. She said that trails in that area are not friendly for horses. If there are not signs present they try to zone the horses out. Question was raised, why only vote for 2? Only \$10,000 available at this time. Ballots were voted.

Membership status was discussed. Steve Ropel said we didn't have membership cards yet. He pointed out that we should not have to mail out the insurance certificates. Deb Moran indicated that the insurance company does not do this. George pointed out that the USEF sends their certificates out. Marsha said that she wants a copy, in case she ever needs to use it. George said that at this point in time we cannot put the certificate on the website, if it could be done then members could download it. Steve said that the company had not sent enough certificates so he had to copy them. Apparently they were originally sent to George King instead of him. Deb will call and follow up on this. Susan pointed out that the membership looks for a hard copy and that downloading it wouldn't be the same. Mary Ann said that she gets a 4-5 page explanation with her coverage from USET membership and she would fax a copy to Deb.

Marsha said that the membership cards did not get printed for a while as she hasn't gotten to it yet. The insurance certificates already went out so can't be mailed with those.

Marsha said if members want to email her she will print a membership card for you.

Asked if cards could be sent to Chapters to pass out to their members? List of members can be sorted by chapter. We will send out cards next year.

Question was raised about possibility of membership submissions being lost in the mail, how would members know if their check was received? Suggested that members who provide an email address could be emailed on receipt of their payment telling them that they are members. Question asked, whom to call if you have an insurance problem? This information is available on the website.

Steve needs to get more certificates. George King said that if you do have an accident and put in a claim the company first checks the membership list sent to them by Steve and if your name is on it - no problems. If you are not on the list the company checks with George, Deb, or Steve on the membership status of the individual. They do check and follow through. It was pointed out that the certificates have no names on them. It was decided to post on the website that members who want a membership card should email Marsha for one.

Deb Moran spoke about additional insurance coverage for the Board of Directors and Officers. Suzanne pointed out that it was a "no-brainer" and that we needed it and all the officers should have it. Steve said that we already pay \$5,900 for insurance and the additional coverage would cost \$1,200 more. Suzanne asked if already had this type of insurance and George said we did not. It was voted on in the past and turned down due to the expense of it.

Sara pointed out that now that we have allocated the trail grant money anything that occurs on these trails can come back to us. The Council could be sued, which means the Directors could be held personally liable. Sue made a motion to go ahead and get the insurance. Sara seconded the motion.

Marsha pointed out that even though it was expensive it would protect all of us. Most major organizations cover their officers. Steve suggested possibly raising membership fees to cover it. Shannon Budnik said we should not raise the fees but get more members. Marsha suggested assessing the board members to cover costs, but Steve pointed out that the board is here for the members and shouldn't have to cover the costs alone. George pointed out that the reason our liability insurance is so high is that it covers all our chapters and if each chapter had to have their own coverage their costs would be higher. Discussion continued about the costs. Chip Watson asked if the coverage would filter down to the chapters and Deb thought yes but would check on it. George indicated that we would supply them with a list of both our board members and those of the chapters. Motion was passed and Steve was authorized to pay the bill when it arrives.

Do we want to have a Code of Ethics? Do we want to edit them? Suzanne asked what we wanted from this, guidelines for the website? Yes. Sara asked if it would be for all members of the council? Yes. We already have one for the board. We will want to re-write it. Lynndee suggested that we have one but make it more generic. Discussion continued. Should be re-worked. Marsha pointed out that some of the wording could be mis-construed to cover companion animals. Lynndee will rework it and make sure it says that horses are livestock. Leslie suggested the use of Equid.

Discussion of Legislation. Already have 70+ bills in covering horses, farms and equines. The helmet law went by the assembly. We lost a representative so we need to wait til someone else will pick it up. Bill 5796 is in the finance committee of senate this week for discussion. It is of interest to us, dealing with exclusion of bicycle, motorcycle, and

equestrians from sales tax. Go to the Legislative website and find the committee. Send a letter to the Chairperson of the financial committee.

Still working on Jeff Williams in the House.

Inherent Risk is not going to move as long as trial lawyers are opposed to it. (Sheldon Silver has to leave and have more non-trial lawyers)

Leah mentioned a letter from Anne **Wid??** publicity for inherent risk. One of their members sent a letter with a suggestion to promote awareness of inherent risk by NYSHC sponsoring a ride statewide to accomplish this. Could we do this? The request was for support in this endeavor. George recommended getting back to her for more information. Discussion followed about the present state of affairs with litigation etc. Karen Lassell wondered if we sponsored such a thing would it be covered under our insurance? This is something that will have to wait til next year at least. We are not ready to have NYSHC cover the whole thing. Possible to be part of it and cover out part in it. George said we wouldn't want to run it as the Horse Council but we should participate and show our support. Discussion about other sports and inherent risk. Skiing is the only industry that has passed such a law. Question was raised about changing the language to fit a different committee, what was the language in the ski industries? George said, same as ours.

Motion was made by Suzanne to let them know we would support a ride. Bob Pfohl seconded the motion and it passed.

Leslie spoke about the ID program. The Federal government has backed off due to confidentiality issues. NYS is moving ahead with it though. Still voluntary.

Trail ride program: Steve doesn't have time to head this up. Could someone else do it. Would be like the quarter horse folks run it, keeping track of mileage etc. Leah indicated she might be interested. Steve said it would be self supporting-send in miles at the end of the year. Involves minimal cost for participation. Promotes trail riding. Would keep to a calendar year- possibly Labor Day to Labor Day. George will send Leah information. Steve and Leah to talk about it.

George discussed some advantages to being member of Horse Council. Websites are listed on our website etc. Problem now, non-horse related sites. Do we want to place these on our website? Shannon suggested allowing ads in our newsletter instead.

Lynndee agreed, yes to the newsletter but no to the website.

Bob Pfohl talked about the Horse Expo in Syracuse. Had displays printed for each chapter. It will be in booth 806 so come and visit or help. Sign up with him after meeting if you can help. Shannon suggested putting the website and logo on the bottom of display. George has given Bob tapes of the Olympics etc for use in the booth. Janet has a tape on self-defense for trail riders.

Shannon spoke on Equine Rescue. Pointed out that now that the Anti-slaughter bill is out of committee it will probably pass. All 3 slaughterhouses have been shut down. Now horses are shipped to Canada and Mexico for slaughter. When the bill passes there will be more unwanted horses and the rescues will have no room for them. There was a lot of discussion. Equine Industry Leaders Group is trying to put together methods for dealing with the unwanted horses in NY. There will be an economic impact on the sale prices of horses due to all these unwanted horses. If people would control irresponsible backyard breeding it would help lessen the number of unwanted horses. The people who breed and

sell quality horses will suffer. Right now there is only educational stuff out there. What other ideas can we come up with?

George reported that the Empire State Quarter Horse Association has approached him about holding a combined meeting with ESQHA, NYSHC, and Equine Farm Bureau. They want to have a speaker on unwanted horses. The idea was to have all groups have their separate meetings and then come together for a lunch and the speaker. They are talking about having it at the Syracuse Renaissance Hotel on Jan 18-19, 2008. Rooms are ~\$79 per night. They will round up the speakers and we would have a room for our own meeting. Are we interested? Could replace our November or February meeting. There may be a room charge for the meeting. Benefit- it would be a good gesture on our part. Motion was made to support the idea by Lynndee Kemmet, seconded by Bob Pfohl. Would this replace our Feb meeting? Yes. Send the info to Leslie for the USDA also. Voting was tabled until the next meeting. Sue spoke about the Right to Farm law. Small farms with a few horses are getting pressured because they don't meet the \$10,000 income criteria. The Right to Farm law applies to agricultural districts, you have to apply to be part of an agricultural district. If you are not zoned agricultural then it is a one on one discussion with your district zoning. The \$10,000 number is for equine exemption status. There was some discussion about becoming part of an agricultural district. Next discussion was about Trailer tolls. Marsha thought that if you were a commercial concern you needed the DOT even if you didn't haul for hire.

Steve brought up the NYS 100 Competitive Trail Ride. He was approached by Ann ??? indicating they would like to get some financial support from the Horse Council. They fall under our insurance already. Steve believes we should support them but he is not sure how. A suggestion was made to support it out of our account. After the Tompkins County account expires we can do it under our own.

Suzanne asked if they supplied the documentation on spending. She is a member and she needs to make a proposal as to how she wants to support it. Without documentation we can't do this. This was put under our auspices when they were self supporting but if they are not self-supporting and want our financial support the NYSHC would have to "manage" the monies. They would need to send us the bills and we would pay them. George will see her June 1st and will talk to her then. Susan said they lost \$600 last year because it was cancelled and they still had to pay some expenses.

Group asked about scheduling special events so far in advance for insurance coverage. Could some flexibility be negotiated? Talk to Deb and see what transpires.

Sara reported the results of the voting. There were a total of 17 ballots. The first choice was the Wallkill group with 11 votes. Second was Catt-Chau with 9 votes. The remaining 3 were: Friends of Hammond Hill-7 votes, NYS Walking Horse-4 votes and CAEA-3 votes. Since Wallkill only wanted \$1,900 George recommended giving them the full amount of their proposal and the remainder to go to Catt-Chau. Bob Pfohl made the motion to do this and Lynndee Kemmet seconded it. Motion passed.

Sara will send an email to all the applicants and those groups not receiving funds will be held in reserve for future funding. Memorandum of Understanding will be prepared for the two groups to sign.

As of today no money has been spent. Bills will be sent to Sara and she will send them on to Steve.

Colleen Segarra spoke about two cruelty cases. One was from last year when complaints were filed because of an emaciated horse that subsequently went down and was euthanized by a vet. They gave the owner the benefit of the doubt. Went to the police and reported it, but a non-horse person is handling it and it is taking time to do anything. Colleen was brought in after the 2nd horse died. They found out that they could prosecute and could do tests on the bones to see if the horses were starved. There is one horse remaining. In the interim Chenango county has been called. She pointed out that we should all know who the horse people are in our police departments, should get details, and go through proper channels, i.e. getting a vet and the police to go out and look themselves. Find these things out before you need them. She stated that they needed some support for these cases. Letters can be sent to the Ulster county sheriff. Support in Chenango, possibly be in the court room for case. Shannon Budnik has details and letter set-up that can be used as a template. This info will be sent to George who will forward it to the rest of us. A letter was read from the Horseperson of the Year, Donna Phillipson. Motion to adjourn was made by Chip Watson at ~4pm. Many seconded it. Meeting adjourned.

Members present: George King, Debbie Morano, Teresa Passaretti, Janet Pfohl, Bob Pfohl, Shannon Budnik, Suzanne Etherington, Sara Chevako, Kathy Pratt, Charles Sawicki, Lynndee Kemmet, Susan Braer, Mary Ann Byers, Heidi King, Karen Lassell, Ainsley Smith, Carol Lorene, Jean Arledge, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Marsha Himler, Steve Ropel, Chip Watson, Colleen Segarra, Leslie Personett
Excused: Diane Jones, Cheryl Mitchell, Mark Gisselbrecht, Jensens