

NYSHC Meeting Minutes December 2, 2006
Called to order 10:20 am.

George King outlined the purpose of the day's meeting as a planning meeting for next year. We need to decide where to have the annual meeting and if we want to change the dates of the December and February meetings.

Minutes from the annual meeting were sent out prior to the meeting and motion to accept them was made by Marsha Himler, seconded by Fiona Farrell. Motion passed.

George King reintroduced Teresa Passaretti as Secretary and asked that members identify themselves when making motions as she is not familiar with everyone's names yet.

Treasurer's report was given by Steve Ropel. Balance sheets for calendar year November 05- November 06 (single sheet) were distributed. Accounts have increased by ~\$6,000.00. The only accounts showing transactions were the M&T general and show accounts. All others just showed changes due to interest. Steve Ropel noted that we were in better shape in total operating cash with M&T general being the difference. For the 05 total he indicated we only deal with Administration, Membership, Trails and Way and Means. The other accounts are self-sufficient. Net income as of 10/06 was ~\$2,600.00.

The difference this year was an increase in the membership account; it was \$32,000.00 in 05 and \$39,650.00 in 06 due to an increase in member numbers. This is where our operating cash comes from. Steve Ropel reported that the license plate sales have not done well yielding ~\$20.00.

Marsha Himler asked about the MHM checking account and Steve Ropel said it had been moved to the M&T show program checking account for operating capital. She also asked why the newsletter expenses had increased so much. The answer was that this year there were 4 newsletters sent as compared to 3 last year. (Actual total figures for Newsletter 05 include Newsletter/other so the increase in expense is not that great)

Question was raised about the \$350.00 increase in membership expenses. It may include Council of Agriculture membership. Steve Ropel will check on this. There is no separate outflow for contributions to AHC, USEF and Council of Agriculture memberships. Marcia Himmler proposed separating out memberships and Steve Ropel will do this.

Moving on to the two larger packets for November 04-October 05 and November 05-October 06. These are further breakdowns of the information on the short sheet and include more detail on each program.

All show program income and expenditures are listed under Other Income/Expense. Steve Ropel asked if there were any questions about the packets.

Fiona Farrell asked if membership was tracked demographically and Steve Ropel said that he did not do that but the database could be sorted to provide that information.

A misrepresentation of membership numbers was corrected by George King. The correct number is ~1,200. Membership so far for 2007 is 178 including between 90-100 new members. 521 have not renewed as of this time and ~425 have not yet renewed.

Steve can obtain the membership numbers, he estimates it to be ~1000. This includes 600 members and 400 from club memberships (clubs we represent).

Steve Ropel also presented a pie chart of how our membership dollars are spent. About 1/3 of our membership dollars go towards insurance. The remaining membership dollars support the meetings, council liability, newsletter, supplies, and postage. Steve indicated that he could show more detail if there was interest. Steve Ropel needs the chapter membership addresses updated so he can send the chapter dues checks.

Marsha Himler said she would email Steve the sponsorship money information but wondered if last year's information should be in this year's column. Steve said this year would be in next year's column. He indicated that it should be after 1/06 but he couldn't identify it as sponsors so it is listed under other categories. He and Marsha will work it out. Marsha Himler will send the information to Steve when she gets it from the sponsors.

Bob Pfohl asked if the membership database had been updated. It is updated on the 15th and 30th of the month. It is an Excel file and the listings are alphabetical with the chapters listed so that it can be sorted by chapter if desired. Steve is not keeping track (on the database) of those that have not renewed yet, just who was listed last year and who has paid this year-you can compare these lists to get that information. There is always a delay due to logistics. There is less delay this year because there is no longer a middleman.

The newsletter goes out to all members including show program members. The day the newsletter is printed George King downloads the current membership list from the database to give to the printer.

Steve is trying to streamline the database updating. Database counts life members (they have to send \$19.00 to get the insurance).

No budget was prepared because we don't have a firm plan of events.

George King added that the only change since the last meeting is a \$1000.00 for the show program which comes out of MT show. The address needed to send the \$200.00 check in memory of Dr. Nichols will be gotten from George King.

The \$100.00 allocated for refurbishing the Challenge trophy has not been requested yet.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Bob Pfohl, seconded by Mary Ann Byers.

Motion to accept budget same as one for 2006 made by Marsha Himler, seconded by Bob Pfohl.

Both motions passed.

Marsha Himler announced two new divisions in the show program at \$500.00 per division. Linda Connors will be in charge of Working Hunter Over Fences and Working Hunter Under Saddle.

Marsha suggests placing an ad in HorseBits at a cost of \$50.00 per month. This publication goes out to NYS. Unable to place ad in Chronicle due to expense and the fact that it is not exclusive to NYS. She will be also send ads out to people who want to post them.

The show program is at the printer and they are printing 1,300 copies. They can be used at any events to spread the word. Marsha also has flyers for sponsorship available.

As far as Labor Day, and the problem we had with the barrels. Naomi (?) does not have a problem with running it at the State Fair even if there are not enough participants.

Undesignated sponsorships will be added to where they are needed to increase the pot, and sponsors will be on the website. The form will be posted on the website also.

Sue Braen sent an article to HorseBits, "Why Join the Horse Council?" It will probably be printed as an editorial.

The ad campaign will cost \$125.00 for a full page. Marsha sent out a Happy Holidays ad for December (went out in Nov). Hoping for more participation due to the 2 shows at Lake Placid.

Link on CCE for the NYSHC... show info can be posted as a link or as information.

There is a change in terminology on the nomination form to indicate the \$65.00 fee includes the "free" membership to NYSHC. We might want to increase this to \$75.00 in the future but want to do it for a couple of years to see how it goes.

Daryel Jensen asked for a change in the "Why Join the Horse Council" about Brookfield Fair Grounds Barn 3 and Marsha said she would try to get it changed.

E-mail Marsha if you want copies of the flyer.

Sponsorships total \$2,300.00. Steve Ropel pointed out that we are a 501C-3 not for profit so sponsorships can be tax deductible.

Sara Chevako spread the word to get applications for the trail grant money and has received 3 viable proposals and 1 non-viable proposal to date.

The original recipient CAEA has had trouble with the DEC in getting connections into state lands so they could not move forward. They have presented a revised proposal to build a parking area for trucks and trailers (~75'X75') especially for carriage drives. It would connect to the trails that are used for carriages. They request \$5,500 to \$6,000 for this project which will be on a private land. This would include the attorney fees for a 10 year lease, survey of the lot, and supplies-stone, signs, and equipment needed to make the lot. They believe \$6,000.00 would be ample for the project. The lease payment to the land owner would be \$1000.00 but this might negate the protection under donation so instead we might build them a fence line or something to "pay them back" without endangering their protection. It is close to a road and near houses so it is unlikely to be used as a "party place".

The Cattaraugus proposal is an ongoing project. Their proposal had a 3-tiered budget: site work-\$42,000.00, parking and supplies \$55,000.00, or both parts-\$74,000.00. A concern was voiced that it appeared to be on state land and most of it is state land with a small portion on private land.

The budget proposed it for things on the private lands to connect to the state land.

According to Senator Hoffman the grant money can't be used for projects on state land.

Question was raised, is the grant conditional on not using for state land? It was something Sen. Hoffman put on it.

Can we now use it for state land? Sara Chevako believes that we can especially since we need to use the money so we don't lose it. The trails are being maintained by private citizens, not the state.

Steve Ropel indicated caution should be taken in paying for projects on state land since changes in policy could cause us to lose the use of the land. Though, this could also happen on private land.

Leah Liesing indicated that the cost for the private land portion would be \$7,000.00 for clearing and easement and the county would hold the easement.

The less viable proposal was from Brookfield Trail. Betsy Jensen proposed a small trail to connect the fairgrounds to state lands to avoid riders going on the roads. A request was made to the Fairground board to have a proposal drafted and sent to us. All that was

sent was an email with very limited information, asked for \$35,000.00 for 1800ft of trail. Should have had the horse people draft it and submitted it to the fairground after. It was discussed that this should be considered a viable proposal and that Daryl and Betsy Jensen draw up a proposal and budget.

Seneca White Deer with Dennis Money as chairman has a budget, proposal, map and mission statement for project on the Seneca Army Depot. They are trying to lease the Seneca Army Depot for use. If they get trail grant money they believe that it will increase the chance that they will get the lease. Requesting \$50,000.00 to be put into an account with joint administration between NYSHC and them. We would still have control of the money if something went wrong with the lease application. Some wondered about the time frame for Seneca county and the surrounding counties. There are many allies to this idea in Seneca and the surrounding counties. The land has 135 miles of roads to be used, which would be great for driving and riding. Most of the money would be used for a trailhead and for signage. It would cover stalls, manure pit, etc. They would charge an admission fee to help cover costs.

We have \$75,000.00 in the grant.

Question was asked about the size of the land? It is ~7,500 acres with about 500 acres not cleared and fenced off. The roads are dirt roads and there are also skid trails from logging.

It was pointed out that we have to give an accounting to the DEC about how the money is being spent and if it sits idle the DEC will be hounding us for an accounting. The money has to be committed by Dec 31st.

George King made a proposal:

We give \$6,000.00 to CEAE, \$10,000.00 to Brookfield and split the remainder between Cattaraugus and Seneca. It would give each less than what they asked for but enough for all 4 to do work with.

Steve Ropel indicated that he would like to see something in writing, a brief summary with a rating etc by a reviewer. He is not comfortable voting on this without seeing a synopsis with pros and cons and recommendations. Marsha Himler voice concerns that we could lose the grant and wondered if we could commit it with legal ties so it would be contingent on the use. We have less than 30 days to commit this money. Discussion ensued about the need to commit the funds while still reviewing the proposals in a manner that would make sure everyone could make an informed vote. Other concerns were voiced by various members as far as dealing with the DEC and Leah Leising said that they have not encountered the same problems with the DEC that other areas have and the land is very suitable for horse trails. She also pointed out the progress the group had made over the last 2 years and the benefits this could provide to the council.

It was decided that we would break for lunch and give people time to look at the proposals that Sara had and ask her questions about them. This would also give Sara time to draft a formal proposal to present to the council for a vote.

Reconvened meeting at 1:00pm.

Sara Chevako presented the motion she had drafted over lunch. This is a copy of what she wrote and presented:

NYSHC Meeting, 12/2/2006

Sara Chevako's motion on Trail Grant allocations

Allocate the \$75,000 Trail Grant funds as follows:

- **CAEA (Cazenovia Area Equine Association)**, \$6000 to create a parking lot on private property adjoining the seasonal road which will be the major carriage-driving trail

Advantages:

Provides access to 11 miles (round trip) of carriage trails on seasonal roads and state forest truck roads

Provides access to future use of private and state lands for riding trails (pending approval of Unit Management Plan)

Can be done immediately (weather permitting)

Disadvantages:

None that I can see

- **Catt-Chau (Cattaraugus/Chautauqua Chapter, NYSHC)**, \$29,000 to proceed further with trail development and parking

Advantages:

Ongoing project, so a detailed plan and experienced work crew are available to proceed immediately, weather permitting

Disadvantages:

Project is on State land (DEC), under an Adopt-A-Natural Resources agreement (contrary to original intent of grant, which was to be used on private lands connecting to trails in state lands)

- **Seneca White Deer, Inc. at Seneca Army Depot**, \$30,000 to create a horse riding and driving system by creating a trailhead, parking signage, etc.

Advantages:

Would be a superb area for equine activities, with many miles of hardened roads and trails suitable for riding and driving in an area intended to be a nature preserve

Depot is presently owned by Seneca County.

Disadvantages:

Area is not yet under the control of Seneca White Deer, Inc., so project cannot begin until they gain legal control, and timing is uncertain

- **Brookfield Fairgrounds (trail between Fairgrounds & State lands)**, \$10,000, to be held by NYSHC pending receipt of adequate plan of action

Advantages:

Would be of great benefit to NYSHC, enabling the Competitive Trail Ride clinic to be held at Brookfield, rather than at Otter Creek

Would greatly reduce the liability of promoters and riders, by enabling access to State lands from the Fairgrounds without riding on the roads

Disadvantages:

Fairgrounds Board submitted a completely inadequate plan, and Daryel and Betsy Jensen must work with them, to do whatever it takes to get acceptable documentation

Subsequent discussion items, incorporated into the motion:

- Each entity must establish a separate bank account to receive and disburse these funds
- Each entity will be sent a legal document by NYSHC (Fiona to draft, using the contract between NYSHC and DEC as an example), detailing the terms of the grant; one such term will be a one-year (November 30, 2007) deadline on demonstration of ability to complete the project. Otherwise, the funds will revert to NYSHC, for reallocation to other groups. (This is intended especially for Seneca White Deer, Inc.)
- All of the recipients are 501.c.2 or 501.c.3 organizations and exempt from NYS sales tax
- Each entity must submit a detailed periodic accounting of expenditures, including photocopies of cancelled checks, which NYSHC must then submit to DEC, as proof of proper disbursement of funds

The motion was seconded by Marcia Himler.

There was discussion about making a contingency plan to redistribute funds to the three other groups if Brookfield did not come up with a plan by a deadline. This would not be a problem and Daryl suggested that the funds be placed into a separate account, not in the organization's general fund. (see Subsequent Discussion items above)
George King called for a vote, and the motion passed with none opposed.

Moved on discussion of Yankee Pedlar's offer to become an affiliate. They would require \$7.00 per member which would mean raising the dues by the same amount so it was decided not to become an affiliate.

Discussed whether we wanted to have membership cards. Had them in the past but stopped providing them as they didn't seem useful. Suggested that they could be used for support by showing the card. Steve would not have the time to mail them to members, Leah Leising wondered if they could be sent with the insurance papers?

Motion to provide membership cards was made by Colleen Segarra and seconded by Marsha Himler. Motion carried.

Deb Morano announced that the insurance had been renewed and paid for for 2007. It covers liability and event insurance. It does not cover the directors and officers. Looking into directors insurance.

There is something in the newsletter about an offer from US Rider offering a free first aid kit for people who join before the end of January. US Rider is a kind of Triple A for people who own horses and trailer frequently.

What memberships in other organizations do we have presently? AHC, USEF, and Council of Agriculture. NY Farms has asked us to join them. This is a large organization do we want to join? It was suggested that we should NY farms has a good information network and could raise awareness etc.

Motion to join was made by Sara Chevako, seconded by Suzanne Etherington. Motion carried.

Some discussion about the joining the Farm Bureau went on, it could be mutually beneficial to both organizations (cost ~\$1,500.00). George King will talk to Jeff Williams about it.

George King discussed upcoming Legislation issues. They are re-opening the helmet law. As written it only applies to riding on NYS roads. Some shows are now allowing children to ride without helmets. The NYSHC along with the Farm Bureau and Equine industry leaders are re-opening it. Want to change it to anyone under 18 years of age on all public land. No guarantee it will pass and not sure who will enforce it. Discussion ensued about including driving events, private property, certain uniform requirements for various equestrian events. The USEF, and the Quarter horse groups already have stated that they will not mark competitors down for wearing helmets.

At the same meeting Assemblyman Bill McGee asked legislators to look into Humane Seizure and Abuse. This will take some time. Inherent risk will be an issue as usual.

There was discussion about the Animal ID program. There are two programs, Federal and State. Federal started as voluntary and became mandatory, starting with the ruminants and then equids. Horse people said they would watch and see how it works and then comment. Much discussion ensued about reasons for reporting etc.

The incoming house Ag chairman Colin Peterson believes the USDA voluntary program not working and wants mandatory ID.

State of NY going ahead with an animal ID program. Premise IDs are being done as far as horses are concerned. If you have a Coggins, you have a premise ID. The State vet will remain the same under the new Governor and the Commissioner of Ag and Markets to be is for this program. Bottom line- NY will have an animal ID program. NY program will not go beyond the premise ID til the federal program goes beyond premise IDs.

Cost of microchips will go down if it becomes mandatory. More discussion of how, where, when tracking will occur.

The Equine Industries group accepted that the slaughter act will pass. They are starting a program to take care of un-wanted animals. Humane seizure and abuse and registration of rescue farms.

Deb Morano asked about the Horse Expo in Syracuse in May and wondered if we should have a booth. It is the NYS Horse Expo, same as in Harrisburg and she believes it is May 11-13th.

Discussion was had about meeting schedules. Marsha Himler wondered if we could restructure when the meetings are held, possibly not have one in December? Motion to change December meeting to the 1st weekend in November was made by Marsha Himler and seconded by Mary Ann Byers.. Motion passed.

Meetings for this year will be February 17th and April 28th. The annual meeting not set yet. Daryl Jensen will investigate places near the Seneca Depot and talk to Dennis Money about possibly touring Seneca White Deer.

The Spitzer Transition Team: Judy Suarez Farm bureau on Agriculture for the transition team asked George King, the Thoroughbred and Standardbred groups for ideas for Spitzer's 100 day and long range programs. George basically gave them our legislative agenda.

Ray Cross is on the Agriculture transition team. We need a replacement for Bill Madison who was our contact with Morrisville. George King will talk to the Dean of the Morrisville School of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Dr. Chris Nyberg).

Steve Ropel proposed doing outreach for the Horse Council. Get something organized for Ride NY- trail riding in NY so a person could get recognition patches for hours spent riding in NY and have the Horse Council sponsor it, possibly Ride and Drive. Sara Chevako said the Walking Horse group has it and they do self reporting on line. Steve will try to put something together for both riding and driving.

Fiona Farrell discussed the CCE Equine Symposium. They want to increase the size of it, possibly 2 days with more sessions. To be held at the 4H center March 24th and 25th.

Dru Malavase talked about a trail trial for fund raising. A 2 mile course with judged obstacles with pledges etc. She will send information to George King.

Motion to adjourn made by Fiona Farrell, seconded by Bob Pfohl.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Attendance: George King, Teresa Passaretti, Deb Morano, Gail Mardozzi, Suzanne Etterington, Mark Gisselbrecht, Colleen Segarra, Laura Nauditt, Chip Watson, Marsha Himler, Mary Ann Byers, Fiona Farrell, Kathy Pratt, Sara Chevako, Betsy Jensen, Daryl Jensen, Jim Leising, Steve Ropel, Leah Leising, Bob Pfohl, Janet Pfohl, Dru Malavase, Leslie Personett, DVM.