

NYSHC Meeting Minutes October 20, 2007

Called to order at 10:35 by George King at Dutchess Farm Equestrian Center

George announced that we would not be holding a meeting in November, it would be pushed back to the first weekend in December when we would go over our plans for next year and what has been accomplished this year.

Starting off with ongoing Legislation, George indicated that there would be a meeting on November 14th with staff from the offices of Senator Young, Assemblyman McGee and Senator Larkin (racing committee). The main topic will be the Horse Park, we will be trying to obtain financial support from Legislature for the Horse Park. They will also talk about an upgrade to the helmet law and the grant check-off to obtain money.

Copies of last meeting's minutes have been sent to everyone and edits have been sent to Teresa, please send any additional corrections to Teresa. Motion to accept minutes made by Mark Gisselbrecht and seconded by Marsha Himler. Motion accepted.

Introductions were made due to new faces present.

Since Steve Ropel was not present we will table discussion of treasurer's report til next meeting. A copy has been sent to everyone. Marsha Himler presented a separate financial report for the show program-copies on tables. Dates are different on the reports. Marsha next discussed the show program and the progress with entries and prize money.

The program is self-sustaining with sponsorship being a large part of this success.

Discussion of the various classes and fees ensued and MA Byers emphasized the importance of the stables supporting the program.

Marsha continued with a report on the Horse Park. A new brochure is available. They are putting together an economic impact package for NYS and are working with the lawyers to set up as a not for profit (501C3) which could take up to a year but will be retroactive. First fund raiser was held and made ~\$5000. Membership present gave Marsha a big Thank You for all her hard work.

Marsha has membership cards with her, we have to work on a good way to deliver them to members.

Sara Chevako gave a summary of the Trail Grant including a handout with the 5 groups funded. Pine Hills project is completed and several others are already making good progress. The Seneca White Deer group is having difficulties gaining land control. We had voted to wait until end of November 2007 before re-allocating the grant monies to another project(s) if this project became non-viable. She included specs on the 3 projects previously indicated for this reallocation and offered a motion to reallocate to them in the event that Seneca cannot resolve land question by their deadline.

She discussed the distribution of funds and the fact that we need to allocate the rest of the funds before Jan 1st when the budget office will "sweep" unused funds. Everyone is very optimistic about the program's progress.

Motion made by Sara Chevako (written copy provided) that IF, by 11/30/07 or before, the Seneca White Deer, Inc. is unable to demonstrate control of the Seneca Army Depot property in order to implement the Trails proposal, the \$30,000 reserved for this project be reallocated to the next successive proposals which were approved the NYSHC meeting of 4/28/07, as follows:

\$8,600 to Friends of Hammond Hill for Trail Tread improvement (86% of full funding request)

\$15,380 to NYS Plantation Walking Horse Club for Tuller Hill Trailhead Parking (85% of full funding request)

\$6020 to Cazenovia Area Equine Association for Trailhead Parking Lot at Stoney Pond (86% of full funding)

Motion was seconded by Mark Gisselbrecht. Motion passed.

Leah Leising reported on Catt-Chau progress with their projects and indicated that they did not need the \$8030 allocated for connector trail. A new proposal has been made for using this money on the same trail system.

A motion was made by Sara Chevako to reallocate funds originally awarded to Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Chapter of NYSHC (\$8030) to the same group for use on the same trail system. Seconded by Mark Gisselbrecht. Motion passed.

Colleen Segarra presented several abuse/rescue cases that are pending. She asked for help with a work party this afternoon, fostering of some foals and any donations of hay or time that people can provide.

Leah Leising talked with the owner of Stagecoach West, who is a member of NYSHC. They have several activities during the year, trail rides, clinicians etc. Stagecoach West gives NYSHC members a discount and he had an idea for membership tags for identification purposes. He went ahead and got them made and Farnum subsidized them. They are here at the meeting and we will look into including them in a package mailing with the membership cards and insurance packets. George King said that Stagecoach West will be receiving free ads in our publications for their generosity.

George brought up board member renewals. Many board members are renewing but several need to be contacted to see if they are still interested in being on the board since there are some new people that wish to become board members. Some discussion of possible applicants for directorships etc were discussed. George also mentioned that our treasurer Steve Ropel will be retiring soon, possibly moving out of state, and we will need a new treasurer. It would be best if we could have this person work with Steve before he leaves.

There was some discussion about the loss of stables in the NY city areas including Long Island over the last several years. We need to support these stables, perhaps by letters of support.

Annual awards were given out.

Lifetime achievement award was awarded to Betsey Jensen.

Horseperson of the year was awarded to Sara Chevako.

The timing and place for our next annual meeting was discussed to give ample time for planning. It will be at the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY in late September. The exact date will be announced later.

Leah Leising brought up the fact that next year Cattaraugus county will be 200 years old and there will be many celebratory events including a stagecoach run through the county August 9th-27th that people can join either riding or driving parts of it. There will be a youth contest associated with this run.

Sara Chevako talked about the emergency rule on trapping by the DEC and the possible impact on trails etc. She has website information for people who want more information.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Pfohl, seconded by Karen Lassell. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:36.

After lunch the Mike and Debbie Warren (our hosts) were introduced and Mike gave us an overview of the farm. Then Brian gave a short talk on the development of the land and the plans for further building.

Joyce Christian gave a talk about the Gypsy Vanner Horse and there was a demonstration of one of her horses, Bandit, under saddle.

This was followed by a Natural Horsemanship demonstration by Carol Meyer and Johnson showing some of the Parelli training she does with him.

Our next presenter was Audrey Reith from the Empire State Animal Response Team. She explained what the organization does and when it is called in for assistance. She also explained what was needed for a county response team to be formed and what local authorities and veterinarians should be consulted and involved in the training and implantation. There are grants available for the formation of these groups if anyone is interested in pursuing this.

Members and Guests Present: George King, Debbie Morano, Teresa Passaretti, Leah Sweeney, Marsha Himler VP Capital District, Heidi King, Honey Mitchell, Karen Lassell Northern VP, Kathy Pratt, Sara T Chevako, Lynnnee Kemmett, MA Byers, Carla Prioufer UCHC VP, Shannon Budnik UCHC Pres, Colleen Segarra, Chip Watson, Mark Gisselbrecht Pres OCHC, Debbie Schiraldi OCHC, Linda Meyer OCHC-Stewart Pk & Reserve Coalition, Bob Pfohl, Leah Leising, Saundra Bennett UCHC, John Bennett UCHC, Kathy Freitag Putnam HC, Ken Newman (visitor), Leslie Newman (visitor), Janice C Pierdiluca, Jean Arledge Putnam HC, Jean Rhuda Putnam HC, Charles Sawker Rockland.