

December 3, 2005  
NYSHC meeting at CCE Building in Binghamton, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:27 a.m. by George King.

Minutes from the September meeting presented. **Minutes corrected to reflect that Senator Young is the Chair of the Ag. Committee and Trails Chair of the Equine Council.** Motion to accept by Elissa Sawyer, seconded by Bob Pfohl. Ayes carried. **\*\*\*Geo- my notes aren't clear.. who is the trails chair of what equine council??? Do you know? I do not know what you are talking about. Sen Young is only chair of the Ag Committee.**

Treasurer's Report by Steve Ropel:

Re: Audit. Three firms were solicited for unofficial quotes on a review of the books. CPA firms offer 3 types: 1) Review- the books will be checked, but there are no legal protections associated with it. Lowest cost. 2) Extended Review- a mini-audit, mid-price range. 3) Full Audit comes with the associated protections, but costs \$3,000.00. Discussion noted that legally HC is not required to do any of the above, just must file tax papers. Firms will do this for \$700-\$800, with a discount for agreeing to the late filing fee. \$1,300-1,400 for Review plus tax filing. Consensus that the bookkeeping was transparent and that the review would not be necessary on an annual basis. George King proposed that a CPA firm be hired to file the tax forms for 2005, and to go with every other year a review (the next one being for 2006's records). Motion made by Steve Ropel, seconded by Sue Knauer. Ayes carried.

Balance Sheet submitted by Steve Ropel was reviewed. Noted that there was a decline from 1/31 to 12/1 of approximately \$5,000. **This decrease is due to two insurance bills being paid this year (05 and 06).** All MHM outstanding bills and vouchers are paid; the general account was used for this. MHM checking account will be closed pending decisions to be made later in the meeting. Steve brought to the BOD's attention that the NY 100/60 account with Tompkins Trust Co. Bank is solely in Ann Hart's name and she has been submitting reports at year's end. It was determined that for accounting purposes and to have Ann Hart's interests protected, that this account should be brought under the HC's general umbrella. George King will speak with Ann to make the appropriate changes. **Anne Filley not Anne Hart.**

Profit & Loss sheet submitted. The administration column is the costs of the business of running the HC; Steve will attribute income and expenses as best he sees them, but suggests that bills/income be noted as to what exactly they are for better interpretation of the Profit/Loss statement. The expense report form is on the website, use it for reimbursements or bill submissions. Jim Knauer requested Steve's assistance to clarify Ways & Means income and expenses.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Sara Chevako, seconded by Daryel Jensen. Ayes carried.

Insurance: Deb Morano worked with Equisure to get HC's coverage for all submitted events in 2006. A more full report of insurance will be at the next meeting. George King noted that working with Otter Creek for HC events has been good; there will be **a meeting with DEC to see if one insurance certificate can be provided to DEC** for all events and that **this** will cover all events and no longer need to be individual certificates for each event.

License Plate: Karen Lassell reported that 37 plates have been sold, must sell 200 total by April of 2007 to receive our \$5000 fee back from DMV. Karen to check with Diane about changing the visibility of the LP program on the website.

Ways & Means: Jim & Sue Knauer reported that at the Brookfield Ride, an auction brought in \$1460 to the HC and that \$279 of HC merchandise was sold. Replenishment of some items necessary needs to be in the budget. Knauers to lists types of items and prices on the website, they will need to be contacted for size/color availability.

Brookfield Report: Sue Knauer mentioned that the Brookfield site is seeking grants as well as fundraising for continued improvements. Sue asked if the HC would donate to the effort. Discussion on whether Brookfield is a non-profit organization or not, where or who the money would go to and how it might be accounted for. Jim Knauer will get more information to propose an appropriate donation and submit this to George King for email distribution and voting by the BOD.

George King presented other requests for funding/donation from the HC which were discussed. 1) Dick London proposed (via communication with George) that the HC join the USHJA, an affiliate of the USEF. **It was decided not to join.** 2) NE Regional Therapeutic Riding conference is holding their annual meeting in the area in 2006 and requested HC support. George proposed a donation of \$200 and would check on booth space for the HC. Motion to accept the Therapeutic Riding donation made by Sue Knauer, seconded by Carla Picayo. Ayes carried. **\*\*\*Geo- Carla is Ulster County HC's VP, can she vote/make motions in this position? Put me in as the second.**

George noted several meetings coming up: Agricultural Society (social organization that promotes Ag.) and the CAO (group of Ag affiliates that meet to discuss policy issues to take to the legislature to advocate for) on Jan. 5-6 near Syracuse. "Horses 2006" event at Cornell to be on March 25-26, Geo will work to get HC booth space as well as a couple of speaking slots, possibly as introductions to other talks, to promote the HC. Bob Pfohl will organize booth attendants, please coordinate with him for this. **Our committee member on the "Horses 2006" planning committee is Elissa Sawyer.**

THE BUDGET. Steve Ropel presented an outlined proposal based upon history and previous discussions, but wants more input. Changes discussed will be presented in a new, clean format at the Jan. meeting. Motion to pass the budget made by Sue Knauer, seconded by Sue Etherington. Ayes carried.

Sue Knauer requested \$50 for a booth at a Genesee Valley equine event. Motion made by Marsha Himler, seconded by Sue Etherington. Ayes carried.

Lunchtime presentation by Harris Partnership representative Dave Renfro on doing a membership directory for the NYSHC. HC must submit minimum of 3000 names to Harris for the project to move forward. At that time, Harris would create a clean database of names and current contact info & submitted photos if desired, HC gets 10 pages to do with as it pleases (editorial, information, camera-ready advertisement sales) & 25 complimentary copies. Harris sells the books to members and claims that 40% of members that list will purchase from them (books will range from \$39-\$79 depending upon features chosen). Security and privacy issues are important to Harris- databases aren't sold, "decoy" listings are included to alert the company if lists are being used inappropriately. Harris recommends these books do well at 3-4 year intervals. Motion made by Sue Knauer that the HC see if it can amass the 3000+ names before make any further decisions. Seconded by Sue Etherington. Ayes carried.

MHM report by Marsha Himler. Submitted 2005 financials and proposal options for self-supporting 2006 show program options. Discussion arose concerning needing a method to clarify the \$15 kickback to the show program as a result of new members and if they also checked a chapter to affiliate with. George King will research the show vs. chapter issue for the 2005-year and report at the next meeting. Motion to proceed with a 2006 show program made by Daryel Jensen, seconded by Sue Etherington. Ayes carried. Motion to put \$3500 in the budget for "seed money" to start the program (profit from 2005 MHM) made by Sue Knauer, seconded by Sue Etherington. Motion to include the \$15 kickback to the show program from each membership associated with the program made by Sue Etherington, seconded by Sue Knauer. Ayes carried.

\$40K is still in a CD left over from the MHM program. George King asked that BOD members come to the February meeting with some potential ideas for the money.

2006 NYSHC memberships: Gail Nardozi announced that all notices will go out the following week to all names that have been members at any time since 2000; approximately 1000 addressed envelopes are ready to go.

Susan Braen asked for clarification on the supplemental insurance that members receive. George King explained that the HC policy will become the primary insurance if there is no homeowner's policy, etc.

BOD Job Descriptions- a past action item. Still waiting for descriptions for NYSHC Officers, Regional Vice Presidents, and Regional Directors. Karen Lassell to work on this for the Feb. meeting.

Trails Grant: Daryel Jensen reports continuing issue with the DEC holding temporary vs. permanent easements and that this is an insurmountable stumbling block to DEC participation. Discussion of other easement holder options including the North American Land Trust as well as a further examination of a directory of NY Land Trusts. The Cazenovia Area Equestrian Association, which has been working on some deals, has stalled out. Sara Chevako to contact them and let them know that the HC needs a proposal for how it will move forward by the February meeting; if not, the HC will solicit written proposals from other groups for the grant at the April meeting. Sue Etherington knows of a group that would be interested and Daryel Jensen offered that the Seneca White Deer land probably could come up with a plan as well.

Sara Chevako presented the draft copy of Appendix "D" of the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan and noted that in the county tables of recreational needs, horses aren't even mentioned! The HC should object very strongly to this omission.

Bob Pfohl reported on the positive impact of the HC & the annual meeting on Western NY's equine activities. The Chamber of Commerce presented the economic impact of not having the limited liability law in NY on the local economy of Cattaraugus County and the surrounding area to Senator Young. Lt. Governor's roundtable offered Diane Jones and Sue Knauer the opportunity to present the impact that horses have on the economy. At the Western Chapter's annual meeting the managers of Knox Farm and Erie County Parks attended and are pleased to be part of the conversations and positive interactions.

December meetings are hard to get to just by nature of the busyness of the time of year. Susan Braen suggested the HC look to other dates.

Motion to adjourn at 3:30 p.m. made by Sue Knauer, seconded by Sue Etherington. Ayes carried.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Lassell

Attendees: George King (President), Steve Ropel (Treasurer), Debbie Morano (Vice President), Bob Pfohl (Western Regional VP), Janet Pfohl, Sara Chevako (Central Regional Director), Kathy Pratt (Central Regional Director), Chip Watson (Mid-Hudson Director), Elissa Sawyer (Central Regional VP), Daryel Jensen (Southern Tier VP), Carla Picayo, Diane Schoonmaker, Shannon Budnik (sp?), Mary Ann Byers (Western Regional Director), Susan Braen, Karen Lassell (Northern Regional VP), Suzanne Etherington (Central Regional Director), Susan Knauer (Finger Lakes VP), Jim Knauer, Marsha Himler (Capital Regional VP), Gail Nardozzi