

# Equine Advisory Committee Meeting

September 29, 2015

**Advisory Committee Members Present:** Leonard Brainard, Jim Leising, Leah Leising, James Little, Thomas Livak, Linda Murphy, Melinda Nichols, Holly Parry, Vicky Raecher, Becky Smith, William E. Sprague, Holly Zendarski

**Advisory Committee Members Absent:** Emily Bailey, Luke Brainard

**General Attendance:** Crystal Abers

Crystal called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

## **Election of Officers:**

Becky nominated Lenny as Chairman. Jim Little seconded. Lenny approved as Chairman.

Jim Little nominated Luke as Vice Chairman. Lenny seconded. Luke approved as Vice Chairman.

Lenny nominated Becky for Secretary. Jim seconded. Becky approved as Secretary.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Marketing/Tourism/Website:** Becky reported that Equestrian Trails brochure needs to be updated and reprinted. There was discussion on business changes/additions.

**Advocacy:** Leah discussed a 2014 Horse Survey done through Cazenovia College stating that less than 2% of the US population lives on farms. She also circulated a rack card and information on the "Pride of NY" initiative which is geared toward farmers and "Saddle Up NY" initiative which is geared toward equestriennes. There was some discussion on animal abuse. The Western Chapter of the NY Horse Council is assembling a directory for 2016 and submissions are due by January 15, 2016. She asked if there was any way we could get the word out about the directory to businesses in Cattaraugus County. Leah also pointed out that there were no horse trails on the map included in the 2016 Enchanted Mountains Activities Guide and explained that she didn't want to lose these trails. She also said that Pine Hill Trails were listed on this map as Hiking Trails, and the Pat McGee trail wasn't marked.

**Trails:** Jim Little announced that DEC has built a "super highway" on the state land behind the DEC barns. Crystal asked if there are hiking trails that should be distinguished from horse trails. Jim feels that all trails on state land should be multi-use trails. Tom Livak said the horse trails on the Equine brochure were incorrect. He explained how difficult the GIS system is to work with and there was discussion on this. Tom also said that ASP had a Trail Crew for the first time in many years and that they had cleared horse trails first, installed new "old fashioned" markers, and had cleared the remainder of their trails. Trail assessments are to be done. Linda questioned if they could tell how many people were using these trails? Tom said there really was no way to tell that. Vicky asked if Lonkto area was included

and Tom said yes. He also noted that the new Director at ASP, Jay Bailey, was very supportive of trails. Crystal said the next Trails meeting would be October 14, County Center, Little Valley. Information would be forwarded to members tomorrow.

Horse Resource: Becky reported that there was nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

Crystal explained that Cattaraugus County 4H had split with Allegany County and Leah read off the names of the new board members. Crystal also told the group that Cattaraugus County EDPT had done a series of ag-related talks and wondered if we should host an equine "boot camp". She suggested asking Dr. Karin Bump, Cazenovia College, to talk about the Pride of NY. Leah will contact Karin and let us know her response.

Leah agreed to distribute materials at EquiFest 2016 from the Catt/Chaut booth.

Bill Sprague reported that the Extension kept their office in Ellicottville. He continued on and announced that this will be his last meeting as he has termed out as Legislator. Crystal invited him to continue as a member from the private sector.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5th, County Center, Little Valley.

Adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Smith