

## Equine Advisory Committee Meeting

November 2, 2013

**Advisory Committee Members Present:** Len Brainard, Luke Brainard, Veronica Weber, William Sprague, Jim Little, Holly Parry, Stacy Riley, Jim Leising, Leah Leising

**Advisory Committee Members Absent:** Melinda Nichols, Amy DeTine, Linda Murphy, Steven Lord, Randy Mallaber, Annie Widger Thomas Livak, Ruthe Riehle

**General Attendance:** Crystal Abers, James Isaacson, Vicki Raecher, Kori Eaker, Becky Smith

Chair Len Brainard called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**Approval of minutes:** Leah Leising requested minutes be amended under Reports to reflect the discussion on bridge construction and equipment used was Boutwell Hill on Chautauqua trails.

Veronica Weber motioned to accept amended minutes. Jim Little seconded.

Vacancy: Vicki Raecher is interested in becoming a member of the Committee. Annie Widger submitted her letter of resignation. At this time, there are 2 vacancies.

### Reports

**Marketing:** No updates

**Advocacy/Education:** NYS passed a new Helmet Law stating anyone under 18 must wear a helmet while riding horses. Extension Building in Ellicottville has been taken over by the Town of Ellicottville and could be an option for horse classes sponsored by this Committee.

**Trails:** Allegany State Park trails have a lot of branches down due to recent high winds. There is a new snowmobile trail in Bedient Park area (Mansfield). Bone Run was logged and has new trail.

**Horse Resource:** No updates

### Old Business

Questions were asked about the update on Volume 8. James Isaacson feels it is an ongoing project. There are still gaps to be filled. The data we have is from 2005. He suggests we assess what we've done. Figure out what has worked. Are there things we should be doing to improve Equestrian marketability in County? All this needs to be put in a document to reflect the last 8 years.

Stacy Riley felt Leon's Extreme Cowboy event was a success. They had 35 horses compete and having 4 judges was very helpful.

### New Business

Luke Brainard said the Leon event 2014 will include a driving demonstration class which would include an obstacle course. The Amish would like to be part of a demonstration or exhibition, but cannot take part in a competition. This demonstration would make safety issues a priority. The date has not been set.

The Amish also showed interested in a mini wagon train through the Amish community.

Sleigh Rally at Chautauqua Institution will be held January 19, 2014.

Frewsburg Horse Parade is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. November 30, 2013.

Leah Leising's wish list consists of gravel and equipment rental to hire building of connecting trails on Pine Hill. She would like trails connected to the ice cream stand and parking on Bone Run finished with easy access to trails.

There was discussion on snowmobile trails.

Crystal Abers talked about monies put into Equine for brochures/marketing. Committee needs to organize a group to work on an application to apply for ARC funding for a county wide trail study to identify trails. Consolidated Fund Ap. includes trail funding. Catt. Dept. of EDPT could help with the application process. Lynn LaFeber could also be asked for assistance.

Lenny Brainard asked who does the county wide assessment and Crystal replied that James Isaacson would be involved.

There was discussion on tax breaks for landowners who allow the public on their property.

Lenny mentioned that committee elections are coming up in January and suggested that anyone interested step forward.

Bill Sprague suggested that we watch the EPA which is trying to assume control of all navigable waters which would include ditches and ponds. He suggested we contact Assemblymen and Senators. He will call Schumer and Gillibrand's offices. Crystal will get that information.

Leah Leising brought up the 4-H advertisement for Horse Program in Ellicottville. Stacy Riley mentioned that it is enrollment time for 4-H and they're preparing for next year. Bill Sprague said the director of 4-H is retiring and a new person is coming in.

Next meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, County Center, Little Valley

Jim Little motioned to adjourn at 8:16pm. Luke Brainard seconded.