

Cattaraugus County Equestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes July 13, 2006

Prepared by Becky Smith and Scott Miller 7/24/06

In Attendance:

Advisory Committee; Charlene Aronson, Bob Pfohl, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Annie Widger, Veronica Weber, JoAnne Young, Mary Beth Trenchard.

General Attendance;

Scott Miller, Janet Pfohl, Becky Smith, Terry Martin, Lois Zendarski, Rachel Kent, Peggy Sue Pursell,

Absent Committee Members; Allan Gerstung, Lenny Brainard, Tony Orsini, Jim Toner, Tom Livak, Lori Northrup, Sharon Nolan, Teri Parker, Annet Taapken, and Jim Little.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a tour of Rosebud Stables by owner Charlene Aronson. Rosebud Stables concentrates on Morgan horses. Rosebud Stables is a wonderful facility with indoor and outdoor riding arenas. The barn is as unique structure unto itself.

After introductions and refreshments the meeting was officially called to order. With only 8 Committee members present no formal business could be conducted. Although the meeting was still a success, we need full participation to achieve results.

General Discussion;

Mary Beth Trenchard has replaced Gail Hazer on the Committee. Legislative Chairman Crystal Abers will officially add Mary Beth to the Equine Committee.

Annet Taapken is still on the Equestrian Committee. Annet has just resigned from her Vice-chairman and Secretary positions.

Agenda Review;

1. Review May meeting minutes and approve;

The meeting minutes from the May 18th meeting were reviewed, but were not formally approved because we lacked a quorum. The May 18th meeting minutes will need to be officially approved at the next meeting. Under the "Trails Committee" section it should read; Terry Martin suggested that key segments of trails (trail-heads, trail intersections, and bottle-neck areas) should be secured with easements and right-of-ways. Plus we should be looking at connector trails.

2. Subcommittee updates and review of goals-Volunteers for Subcommittee Chairs;

Scott M. suggested we have Subcommittee Chairpersons that will coordinate Subcommittee activities in-between meetings. This way there will be continual work done on the Goals and Objectives. In-between meetings Subcommittee Chairs will be contacting subcommittee members and ask them to work on or follow-up on specific topics. Then at the Committee meetings each Sub chair will give a report on the latest developments. We will need to vote on Subcommittee chairs at next meeting when we have a quorum, although I feel they will most likely stay the same.

Subcommittee Chairs;

Trails Committee-

Competition/Events/Education Committee-

Marketing/Tourism/Website/Brochure Committee-

Advocacy Committee-

Veronica Weber

Charlene Aronson

Annie Widger

Leah Leising

3. Assign tasks to Committee members for his/her investigation and review;

It was suggested that the subcommittees work on assigning topics through their own groups through subcommittee chairs.

4. Discuss trail use guidelines and identify trail deficiencies;

Trails committee will work on a trail update for the next meeting.

Leah L. Talked about two people she knows from PA who are very knowledgeable and could come here and give our group and equine enthusiasts in general a trail building lesson. Proper trail building is important to minimize future trail problems with erosion and footing.

There was also discussion of erecting trail use guideline signs at trailheads and intersections. *Trail Rider* magazine has an editorial on etiquette. Clemson University posts trail usage signs on structures that fit into the surrounding environment.

Charlene A. suggested we have trail usage rules at every trailhead and junction.

There was also discussion of having the DEC come in and talk to the group regarding trail approval when dealing with trails on NYS land.

Annie W. suggested we publicize to the local communities what we're attempting.

5. Follow-up of Bed & Barns;

It was suggested we work on having different levels of B&B's. Not all facilities will be able to attain the highest certification level and we must also be aware of different budgets for those using our B&B's. As we get further along and start promoting B&B's we can have our own 5-star rating system.

Scott M. said having standards would help anyone interested in starting a B&B. When a potential B&B owner wants to get into advertising to horse owners the BDC can information available to give them on what they need to do to be a B&B.

The New York State Horse Health Assurance Plan and the Certified Horsemanship Association are two accreditation programs that certify facilities. These two accreditation programs would put Cattaraugus County facilities at the top of most lists. We would need to investigate time and expense for accreditation.

Joanne suggested we contact Carol Steffel, a representative from the Department of Ag/Mkts for their NYSHHAP guidelines. They have a booklet of standards available for \$2.

6. Open discussion;

Veronica W. mentioned a landowner near Onoville who is interested in having trails on his property contacted her. Seems like he wants to cater to equines.

Annie W. talked in depth about the Cattaraugus County Fair and this year's Equestrian Barn. She went on to explain that the Agricultural Society has discontinued draft breeds at the Cattaraugus County Fair. She would like to see that barn used as a "Breed Barn" where volunteers could bring their breed of horse in and educate the public on this specific breed. Annie will be overseeing the Equestrian Barn, she is looking for volunteers to bring in their horses and help out for the week. Charlene A. said she would help with the "Morgan" program. She has also been gathering information to giveaway; such as specific breed information, children's coloring books, and possibly playing equine videotapes as suggested by Janet P. If anyone is interested in helping Annie during the fair contact her at annie@gentlethunderfarm.com.

Discussion followed including having a farrier demonstration, floating teeth, massage and basic training demonstrations.

Equine Committee will provide brochures and guidebooks for Equestrian Barn at the fair.

Bob P. handed out information on NYS Horse Council, Zoar Valley, and an interesting newspaper article about Sheldon Silver. Bob encouraged all equine enthusiasts to get involved with the new Zoar Valley Master Plan. You can email comments to; zoar@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Regarding the Sheldon Silver article Joanne Y. questioned what it would take to get a referendum on the state ballot? She would research procedure.

Terry Martin requested that Tom Livak or Scott Miller be informed about anything we may hear about a planned equestrian development. He proceeded to explain that Rick Swist believes this to be a perfect area for subdivisions for an equestrian development.

Joanne Y. mentioned that Mendon, a suburb of Rochester, was an equestrian community.

There was also mention of Hans Mobius' Bigfoot sighting. Might have been a hoax or that's what a quick google search revealed.

The Cattaraugus County Equine survey was discussed. Scott M. had the survey draft there for all to review. Most everyone thought the survey was organized very well and the information that is being gathered is accurate and timely. Offering a prize to those who fill out the survey is a great way to get individuals to fill it out. Charlene offered a free lesson as a prize. Annie offered a trail ride as a prize. It was suggested that Stagecoach West would donate something as a prize. Changes to survey were discussed as well as places it would be handed out. Scott will ask for prizes from local businesses.

Scott mentioned that the BDC does a dinner for local dignitaries as an informational thank you. They are doing a dinner at the Red Garter Bar & Grill on August 23 with an equestrian theme and he is looking for a volunteer to do a demonstration.

Mounted shooting and roping were suggested.

Official letterhead still open for discussion.

7. Adjournment;

The next Equine Committee is October 12, 2006 at 7 pm at the Little Valley County Building, 3rd floor Legislative chambers.

Scott offered guidebooks to anyone who hadn't received them.