

# **Cattaraugus County Equestrian Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes December 14, 2006**

Prepared by Becky Smith and Scott Miller 12/15/06

### **In Attendance:**

**Advisory Committee;** Allan Gerstung, Lenny Brainard, Bob Pfohl, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Veronica Weber, Tony Orsini, Jim Toner, Jim Little, JoAnne Young, Mary Beth Trenchard

### **General Attendance;**

Scott Miller, Janet Pfohl, Becky Smith, Terry Martin, Steve Lord, Judy Dalton, Ainsley Smith, Terri Lord, Peggy Sue Pursell, Brad Bingerman, Janett Ahern

**Absent Committee Members;** Lori Northrup, Sharon Nolan, Teri Parker, Annet Taapken, Tom Livak, Annie Widger

### **Agenda Review;**

#### **1. Review July and May meeting minutes and approve;**

The meeting minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed, and approved

The meeting minutes from the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed, and approved

The meeting minutes from the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed, corrections and additions were made, and minutes approved with changes.

#### **2. Subcommittee Chair Updates;**

##### **Trails Committee Update- by Veronica Weber**

Grant application by the Catt/Chau Chapt NYSHC was approved by the HYSHC for trail improvements at South Valley/Pine Hill Trails. The \$29,000 grant will be used to improve parking, trails, and possibly campsites. Work will start ASAP on the project.

Leah L. Explained grant application background.

Bob P. 4 groups across NYS applied for NYSHC Grant. Check is supposed to be in the mail. A grant requirement is to provide progress reports to NYSHC.

Leah L. There is a chance Catt/Chau Chapt will get more money if the other groups who were awarded money do not spend their award by a certain date. Private land easement part of proposal. Main expenditure of money will be for the parking lot at Pineapple Junction.

Terry M. Some assistance on standard trail easements will be coming courtesy of UB Law School.

Veronica W. Wanted to thank those who worked on grant application.

Al G. Announced that Franklinville received a \$93,000 grant to upgrade facilities at Case Lake. Franklinville also has a second grant pending for trail improvements.

### **Marketing/Tourism/Website/Brochure Committee Update- by Annie Widger**

Annie was absent from meeting. No report

### **Advocacy Committee Update- by Leah Leising**

New Gov. Spitzer may make an appointment of a person with equine background. There are members of HYSHC on State Equine Board. Equine helmet law is under review. Horse slaughter bill still not passed. Inherent risk still an obstacle.

Bob P. NYS HC is always working with Albany on equine issues. In the midst of modifying the Equine Helmet Law. Horse people to write law.

Jim L. Law for those 18 and under.

Leah L. Helmets only required in certain areas and activities.

Jim Little Small helmets hard to find.

### **Competition/Events/Education Committee Update- by Charlene Aronson**

Charlene was absent from the meeting.

Janet P. Saw a newspaper article announcing money for shows and events from NYS Farm Bureau.

Jim. Maybe we can apply for money and fix barn and fair ground.

Bob P. Thought money was actually for NYS Ag & Markets.

Leah L. Education barn at fair grounds needs work. Has the grant been applied for.

### **3. UB Law School- Easements;**

The UB Law School will be providing us an "Easement Overview." This document will contain general information about easements.

Terry M. Easements are complicated; requiring the use of a lawyer, goes in deed. UB Law School should provide a process document regarding easements.

Jim Little How do you get owners to accept easements? Bradford Products owns land and they rent it out to hunters and we loose the ability to ride on that land at different times of year. Usually involve hunting.

Terry M. Landowners need to give permission. There is a cost involved.

Steve L. There can be tax benefits for landowners who allow easements.

Terry M. Open space easement rules have changed.

Jim Little How did snowmobiles do it?

Jim T. Snowmobiles got things done through insurance and voluntarily by landowners. There are only one or two snowmobile easements across the state.

Len B. Easements can be worded in specific ways to depending on what is needed.

Terry M. Easements best used in a situation where trail access might be lost and there is no other access point.

Jim T. For landowners across state liability is an issue but have worked with snowmobilers. Some landowners have not granted permission for ATV use on property. For some reason ATV use on land has been a deterrent for landowner approval. 80% of snowmobile trails on private land. Most issues resolved under general obligations law.

Steve L. Inherent risk bill must pass in NYS.

Ainsley- how about having UB explain some easement terms. Give basic information.

Terry M- Roberta to give final presentation to group on easements.

#### **4. New Brochure;**

Scott M The new brochure is being developed and everyone's input will be appreciated. Format will probably change to legal size paper. County will be printing a very large quantity.

Terry M. Would like to see some facts and figures added to brochure.

Bob P. Equine is growing across state. We could show how much money is added to state economy from equines. American Horse Council has figures regarding equines expenditures. Look at NYSHC council website for information.

Terry M. Diane Jones' comment caught people's attention.

Veronica W. Is there a number for ASP horse camp?

#### **5. Equine Survey;**

Now available on website.

#### **6. Follow-up of old business;**

Scott M. [www.cattco.org/equestrian](http://www.cattco.org/equestrian) is being updated with new content and information. Online survey, trail maps, shops, events, etc. Be sure to get event and activity information to Becky Smith for inclusion on county website. All Equestrian Committee information was given to legislators in a "year in review format."

Terry M. Randolph revitalization is focused on downtown development. The will be writing a development plan and this may be a good time to get equine added to the list of possible areas of development. Randolph could be a staging area for trails going to Onoville and Jamestown.

Veronica W. Do wagon train on 200 anniversary of County in 2008.

Jim Little Crosspatch will be doing a couple wagon trains this year. He also wants to do a wagon train/B&B trip.

Judy D. Distance between towns approximately 7 miles. Same distance horses use to travel. Also railroad tracks the width of .....

Leah L. Wagon Train will get community involved.

### **7. Open discussion;**

Bob P. Add emergency numbers for vets in County and create a brochure to give out to emergency personnel. Then 911 or police/fire depts. will know whom to contact in case of equine emergency.

Brad B. contacted sheriff dept in the past to see if there was interest in starting a search and rescue.

Jim T. ASP has a search policy. If there is an equine emergency the ASP police should be contacted.

Jim L. Vets only travel certain distances.

Al G. The Equine Committee must produce some tangible results to keep getting funding. There may be money for activities that the committee wants to participate in, including advertising. Possibly produce a County promotional equine video? This may help attract businesses and new residents.

Jim T. If we are going to do a video, lets be sure to plan out the details and have backup plans.

Janet P. Maybe BOCES can help with video.

### **8. Adjournment;**

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Legislative Chamber 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Cattaraugus County Building, Little Valley, NY.