

Equine Advisory Committee

Al Gerstung, Chairman

Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee Meeting
Cattaraugus County Center
October 18, 2007
7:00 pm

Advisory Committee Members Present: Allan J. Gerstung, Mary Beth Trenchard, Jim Little, Jim Toner, Tom Livak, Toni Orsini, Len Brainard, Veronica Weber, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Robert Pfohl, Lori Northrup, Annie Widger

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Charlene Aronson, Teri Parker, Sharon Nolan, Annet Taapken, JoAnne Young

General Attendance: James Isaacson, County Senior Planner; Dolly Little, Crosspatch; Crystal Abers, Chairman County Legislature; Bonnie L. Hall, Little Valley Rider's Club; Terry Crisafulli, Janet Pfohl, Ainsley Smith, Terry Martin

Chairman Gerstung called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Brief Recap of the Soiree on September 21

Annie Widger stated that there were 75 people in attendance at the Soiree on September 21st. Everything went very well and generated a great deal of enthusiasm – we need to keep it going. Pictures of the event were shared.

Lori Northrup stated that over \$5,000.00 was donated towards the Wagon Train. Senator Cathy Young is also very interested in the Wagon Train event. We have a great deal of support. Thanks to Margaret Puszczyk for collecting and sharing all the articles from the newspapers.

Update on Development of County Equine Businesses & Trails Map

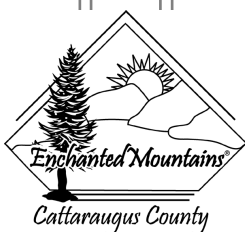
Thomas Livak brought a draft of the map to pass around. Some places of interest and Equine businesses will be Geo coded. There is also a section on the back with an enlarged Pine Hill and Allegany State Park trails. There are plans to have a description about the terrain and type of trail. The Historical Society would like to provide rides on the Old Chautauqua Trail, but needs help finding horses and people to give the rides.

Use of the Randolph Business Development Corporation's 501-C3

The Randolph Business Development Corporation is a 501-C3 and is a small group focused on redevelopment. Lori Northrup stated that our understanding is that the Equine Advisory Group will have a separate checking account for just the Bi-centennial money and will have a contract with Lori. Lori will assist in developing a Letter of Understanding.

Creation of a New Not-For-Profit Organization

Discussion concerning the fact that the Equine Advisory Committee membership expires on December 31, 2007. We want to have an organization that can handle money and contracts.



We need an entity to apply for grant money. Lori Northrup presented a rough framework that she had worked up. It could be called the Cattaraugus County Horseman's Corporation with 501-C3 status. It could take up to 2 years to finalize and have everything in order. Members should have a direct tie to horses or horse related business. The Corporation would need a board of directors.

Discussion on if the Horseman's Corporation should replace the Equine Advisory Committee or compliment the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee was developed with a life span in mind. A new Corporation could take over after a time.

Discussion on how the County Legislature would view both groups, and if a County official would serve, be an advisor, or a board member. A mission statement will be developed by Lori Northrup.

It was the consensus that the Equine Advisory Committee will be expected to function at least one more year.

New Business

James Isaacson stated that a grant application for money from Ag and Markets is due by October 30th. The Cattaraugus County Horseman's Corporation is prepared to ask for \$20,000. He sent a draft to certain members and it needs to be finalized by the end of the week.

Crystal Abers asked the question whether it would be better to have a new entity with no grant track record asking for the money or for the County to apply for the money. *Motion by _____ to have the County apply for the Grant seconded by Robert Pfohl. Carried.*

Robert Pfohl reported that the NYS Horse Council has worked with Catt. Chaut. Chapter and invested \$29,000 to improve trails from 2007 to 2007. 1,360 man hours with 46 volunteers. These trails have attracted many people, not just horse people. It was suggested that a letter of support be sent by the Horse Council to help with the grant application.

Next Meeting

November 29th at 7 pm in the Legislative Chambers.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm by James Toner, seconded by Jim Leising. Carried.