

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – July 19, 2016

Board members attending were: Dorothy Beach, Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, Mary Terpak, Janet Vandervaart, and Terri Young. Morven Park Director Stephanie Kenyon also attended the meeting.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary: The minutes for June 21, 2016 were approved.

Treasurer: Stephanie reported that there was a balance of \$2282 in the LCEA, account unchanged from last month.

Membership: Mary reported that there were 44 individual members and 35 business members – also unchanged from last month. After talking with a Dover Saddlery representative who brought saddles for a boarder to try, Mary suggested to her that Dover join LCEA as a Business Member and in turn LCEA would publish a writeup (which they would supply) of their services to customers in our newsletter and/or on Facebook.

LCEA Website: There were no suggestions for a gift to Brad. Mary said Heather Heider asked whether business listings could alternatively be listed in reverse order. Stephanie said she would try. Alison Head is evidently interested in having Looking Glass Farm join after seeing business members listed in the newsletter.

Loudoun Coalition Meeting: Mary reported on highlights of the last meeting and suggested that in the future, in order to save time, she would forward the report to board members and only report on equine-related matters at LCEA meetings.

American Farmland Trust: Mary shared information she received from AFT. It was agreed to put information about their series of events on the LCEA calendar.

Rural Roads/Drive Gently: Emily said she had an update from Mitch Dimond. She has asked for a definition of branding and mapping. No Rural Roads meeting is scheduled. It was decided that the British video “Dead Slow” is not appropriate to Loudoun County. Kelly suggested that asking wineries and other rural businesses to put “Drive Slowly” signs on their property might be more effective and easier to accomplish than VDOT signs. Board members present agreed. Kelly said that REDC has a meeting planned with Chair Randall to discuss road safety issues. Emily suggested getting the sheriff’s office involved with the Drive Gently campaign.

Morven Park: Stephanie Kenyon reported on numerous aspects of Morven’s future plans and answered many questions. She said that soil borings have been done in the field where the new outdoor arenas will go. The county has 6 – 8 weeks to review the findings, and she is hopeful that the grading permit will be issued soon. She said there was enough funding to start ring construction. The roof of the large indoor ring has been repaired (the smaller ring’s roof was not damaged). New footing will be put in the outdoor rings soon. Board members agreed that a temporary fence around the warmup ring was helpful for dressage, but it should be removable for driving competitions. Ms. Kenyon said that Morven had come to an agreement with the Virginia Equine Alliance in regard to turf racing in the field where the new rings will be located. Morven wanted two crossings of the race track, but has settled for one crossing for vehicles and a second crossing for pedestrians and horses that is outside the track. She said Morven Park is in a 100-year agreement (begun in 1980, but outdated) with Virginia Tech for the Equine Medical Facility. **For instance**, Virginia Tech students lived in the Equine Center housing, but now there are no VT students. As part of the agreement, Virginia Tech has 200 acres for the Equine Medical Center. At one time Morven was allowed to use some of this acreage for their cross-country course, and Morven is trying to get that back. Ms. Kenyon recently met with Janet Vandervaart to talk about how to improve the Morven Park trail system. It might be possible to open new trails and to have a paid membership system for trail users. She said that Phase 2 of Morven improvement would be new barns, and Phase 3 would be a new indoor arena. Phase 3 would be in 4 – 5 years. She said that the indoor facility might include a new performing arts center that the county may have interest in developing as a public/private partnership.

LOCOTA/trails: No news. Janet said that all LOCOTA members are over-extended and that it seems impossible to get a quorum for a board meeting. Also, REDC would like to have a LOCOTA President who can re-activate the organization, as the multi-use trail concept will be important in planning for the new Blue Ridge Center.

2017 Expo: Sheli said board members visited Salamander Inn on July 8. Salamander Inn has offered to host the Expo in 2017 at no charge. Salamander would provide the space, bar set-up, and a screen and projector. There will be a cash bar. LCEA is required to use the Salamander catering service, but we don't yet know what that will cost, and there would be a charge for moving tables. The cost of additional heat would be prohibitive, so a later March or April date might be best. Sheli said she hopes we will get some monetary support from the county again, and she will check the cost of food and moving tables. Since the space seems satisfactory and the location is good, the board agreed that Salamander is probably the best choice for 2017, pending final catering estimates from Salamander.

LCEA/EMC Joint Presentation: Mary and Sheli will meet with Dr. Erskine and Richard Gargliano at EMC on July 25 to discuss follow-up from last year's presentation and a topic for 2017.

Marketing: Emily distributed copies of a suggested membership promotion flyer and asked for comment. Kelly said to send comments to Emily and a copy to her.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. The August 16 meeting will be held at the Morven Equestrian Center Hoffman classroom starting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee