

## Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – August 16, 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 Vandervort~~, and Terri Young. Christie Kimberlin of Total Equine, and Al Van Huyck and Mitch Diamond of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, also attended.

The meeting began at 9:25 a.m.

**Secretary:** The minutes for July 19, 2016 were approved with no changes.

**Treasurer:** Stephanie reported that there was a balance of \$2352.52 in the LCEA account. Kelly asked whether there were any upcoming automatic payments due.

**Membership:** Mary reported that there were 44 individual members and 35 business members – no change since last month.

**LCEA Website:** Stephanie is the new website administrator. The link to Facebook is ready. A gift to Brad was discussed. Sheli will research gift options from Omaha Steaks and email board members for approval.

**Loudoun Coalition Meeting:** There was no meeting this month.

**Rural Roads:** Al Van Huyck, chair of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, gave a brief explanation of history and mission of the LCPC, which was formed in 20?? and is composed of 30 member organizations. No votes are taken, but ad hoc committees, such as the Rural Roads Committee can be formed. Mitch Diamond said the RRC was formed several years ago. Their goal is to raise awareness that rural roads are assets: they are beautiful and important elements of history, and caring for them is economical. Paving roads costs \$1- 3 million per mile, while maintaining all 300 miles of Loudoun's rural roads costs only \$1 million per year. Money allocated for maintenance is controlled by VDOT, while the county decides how to spend capital money for bridges, etc. The RRC was recently invited to a meeting with VDOT and County "officials" to discuss maintenance/paving plans for many rural roads, including five Mitch said are historic. He suggested we voice our opposition to paving by writing to individual supervisors (especially Supervisor Buffington, as most of the roads in question are in his area), attend BOS meetings (especially the upcoming September 14 meeting), and encourage equestrians living on these roads to write their supervisors. Board members should be contacted by September 1. Emily's letter on rural roads will be modified and sent on LCEA letterhead to BOS members, and notices will be put in the next newsletter. Paula commented that speeds on these roads are the danger, and that speed limits are not enforced. Emily said she has written to the Loudoun County sheriff asking what their policies are re: enforcing speed limits on rural roads.

**Morven Park:** No update.

**LOCOTA/trails:** No LOCOTA meetings in the last several months. Janet has met with Stephanie Kenyon to discuss trails. REDC is hiring someone to work with LOCOTA. Beaverdam Reservoir will be closed for two years to repair the dam and make other changes. When it reopens in 2019, there are expected to be expanded opportunities for recreation – at this point not including equestrian trails. Marion volunteered to research studies about horse/water facility compatibilities. Mitch Diamond mentioned trails in eastern Loudoun, but no one knows what trails he was referring to.

**2017 Expo:** The Expo committee will visit Salamander Inn tomorrow to discuss the cost of catering. Kelly will talk to Kellie Boles about how much the Department of Economic Development will contribute to the catering costs.

**LCEA/EMC:** Sheli and Mary met recently with Dr. Michael Erskine and Richard Gargliano, and discussed the following items:

1. An EMC/LCEA joint presentation: LCEA's suggested topic of equine back issues was well-received. EMC suggested possible dates in February. EMC will ask Dr. Adams to talk about surgical alternatives; Kelly will discuss non-surgical options, and another unnamed vet will discuss re-hab and conditioning.

2. Follow-up to the 2016 joint presentation, which was videotaped by EMC: Mary has a thumb drive of the video which she plans to transcribe to paper. She will work with Stephanie Jennings to decide what can be put on video and what can be included in our emailed newsletter.
3. Partnering in putting on a Large Animal Rescue Seminar: Mary will check with the MARE center to see whether they have already hosted one or whether they plan to before LCEA proceeds with any plans to host a seminar.

**Marketing:** Suggestions for changes to Emily's membership promotion letter were discussed. Emily will modify it as requested to send as a letter. It may also be modified for use as a rack card. Kelly has very few of the current rack cards and tri-folds left.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m. The September 20, 2016 meeting will be held at the Marshall House in Leesburg, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee