

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – May 17, 2016

Draft

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 Vandervaat~~, and ~~Terri Young~~.

The meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Secretary: The minutes for April 19, 2016 were approved.

Treasurer: Stephanie reported that there was a balance of \$2282 in the LCEA account.

Membership: Mary reported that there were 44 individual members and 35 business members.

LCEA Website: Kelly said that Stephanie will be entering both businesses and calendar website updates, so Marion should send equine event information to both Kelly and Stephanie. A letter has been sent to business members saying they can have a photo and additional information on their LCEA website listing. In order to access Facebook from the LCEA website, we need a button. Brad has done as much as he can, so Kelly and Stephanie will work on a solution. The goal is to be able to transfer event information to Facebook. Emily asked about efforts to get new business members, and a discussion followed about how to encourage businesses to join. It was decided that names of businesses (not member businesses) located outside Loudoun County should be submitted to board members by email for approval before they are listed on the website.

Loudoun Coalition Meeting: Mary attended the last meeting, which she said was very short with no resolutions. There was a discussion of the John B. Lewis Bridge on Featherbed Lane and the proposed AT&T data center on Short Hills. There will be a public meeting on the data center at the Lovettsville Game Club on May 23. Kelly said it was being proposed as an extension of the existing use, not a data center.

Impact of Neighboring Property: Kelly discussed the problem of Outfoxed Farm in Philomont, which has been impacted by a neighboring grape grower's water runoff for the past two years. Kellie Boles is aware of the complaint.

Projects for 2016 Review: Kelly said she met with Kellie Boles to discuss comments received from the equine survey. Suggestions for work by the board for 2016 include:

- Erection of VDOT signs and improving public awareness of vehicular traffic around horses. Kellie will provide LCEA with a map of all vineyard, wineries, and breweries. The board will use the map to identify horse facilities near these establishments, and then LCEA will ask VDOT to erect Horse Crossing signs where appropriate. It was agreed that there should be a campaign to educate drivers about safely approaching and passing equestrians and generally driving gently on back roads. Emily offered to head this committee.
- Morven Park as the preeminent horse facility in Loudoun County. Kelly said that Kellie Boles will meet with Stephanie Kenyon, Morven Park's Director, to see where they are in the process of updating the facility. It was decided that LCEA should be involved in a discussion with various equine groups that use Morven Park (dressage, eventing, driving, hunters, racing) as to what they need at Morven – it should be positive input. One idea would be to make it a public/private park with Loudoun County involvement.
- Improved trail system. Kelly said REDC will have a new person who will go to LOCOTA meetings, and that LOCOTA could work on the issue of voluntary easements by property owners, in which case property would be deeded to the county, but Mary said the county probably would not want to maintain the property easements.

ZOAG: Kelly said that LCEA needs to continue to be involved. The wording supplied by LCEA for equine establishments was forwarded by ZOAG to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for approval. Mary said that 36 additional rural uses were sent back to staff for more work and wondered what the timeline for review will be.

2017 Expo: Sheli will organize a committee to visit Salamander Inn, which has offered to host the event in 2017 at no charge. We will also consider other locations before making a decision. Mary said that Sunset Hills and Hillsboro

wineries have large rooms. It was pointed out that sufficient parking is also a necessity. Kelly mentioned the Vantage, the hops processing facility in Lucketts which has large rooms and plenty of parking.

Joint Meeting with EMC: Kelly asked for suggestions for topics. One suggestion that met with approval was for a panel discussion on the horse's back – its physiology, lameness/medical problems and solutions, and saddle fitting. Mary commented that a panel discussion is better than just an individual speaker. The education committee will discuss this suggestion with EMC. Mary said that Michael Erskine taped the 2016 joint presentation with EMC, and Mary would ask Sheli to contact him. Kelly said we need to get information on the Emergency Response Training Course to put on LCEA's website and perhaps put the video on Youtube.

Additional Educational Meetings: Marion made several suggestions for possible educational meetings, but Kelly said that we decided to have only two educational meetings per year – the Expo and the Joint EMC/LCEA presentation, so it was decided that, instead of a presentation at an educational meeting, the National Sporting Librarian, John Connolly, would be asked to give a 15 – 20 minute talk at a future board meeting. Marion will contact him to arrange a date for the talk.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m. The June 21 meeting will be held Morven Park Hoffman Center starting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee