

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – March 21, 2017

Board members attending were: Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Shell) King, Marion Lee, and Janet Vandervaart. Stephanie Kenyon and Christi Kimberlin attended as visitors.

The meeting began at 9:20 a.m.

Secretary: The minutes of the January 17 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Stephanie said that there was a balance of \$3640 in the LCEA account.

Membership: There are 23 individual members and 43 business members.

2017 Expo: The 2017 Expo will be at Harmony Hall in Hamilton on March 30. More than 40 vendors have reserved tables, with several on the waiting list. There will also be displays outside. Setup will start at 2:30. Stephanie and Janet will pick up and deliver the food. Stephanie was assured that there will be refrigeration and trash cans (she can also bring some). Stephanie will also bring parking signs. Vendors will park in the back and enter through the back door. Marion, Louise, and perhaps Brad Cotulla will man the check-in desk. Stephanie will bring name tags, door prize tickets, membership forms, change, and a guest roster. There will be cloths and tent cards for each table. Optimum amplifier and computer placement were confirmed. There will be a power point presentation about the proposed animal quarantine facility at Dulles given by one or more persons. Paula offered a driving lesson as a door prize.

Rural Equine Forum: There will be a panel discussion of equestrian issues in Loudoun County at the Morven Carriage House ballroom on Monday, April 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. Kelly, Stephanie Kenyon, Supervisors Buffington and Higgins, and others will form a panel to discuss the equine industry in Loudoun and other topics of interest to Loudoun equestrians. LCEA will provide water and cookies. There will be a great deal of publicity for this event. Stephanie Kenyon explained the parking options.

Temple Hall/ Winery Trail Ride: Doug Fabbola of Fabbola Cellars has communicated with Kelly about an LCEA-sponsored ride at Temple Hall, after which drinks and snacks would be served at his vineyard. It was decided that the event would be scheduled for Saturday, May 20, with May 21 as the rain date. The ride would be free and open to all, with winery tickets for sale. The trail will be marked by Doug and/or Ben Bilko of Temple Hall. Riders can follow the trail on their own, starting between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., after which they can ride to the adjacent vineyard for refreshments. Ben will provide a hay wagon ride for those who don't ride their horses to the winery. Kelly will talk to Doug about the ticket cost.

Morven Park: Stephanie Kenyon provided an update on activities at Morven Park. Renovations have been completed in the Bedford and Davis arenas, with new fencing around the arenas, including the warmup areas, and new judges' stands. Work has begun on two new arenas (one 300' x 250' and one 300' x 350'). Completion is expected in fall of 2017 and first shows in 2018. Painting has been completed on two barns, which will have new wash stalls, new lighting, and stall mats. The indoor arena will also be painted. There are new signs on Waterford Road and new cross-country jumps. Trails have been expanded to 6.5 miles, including the woods behind the mansion. Additional loops will be added later. An old abandoned well in the infield was recently discovered. It can be repaired and used. The steeplechase course, which was to be repurposed for flat racing, will now be used for steeplechasing again, with an initial point-to-point planned for September 16, 2017. Saturday evening arena polo will begin July 1 and continue for 9 weeks. Box seating will be installed along the fence line – with 8 boxes to start. The equestrian patron donor program will start June 1. Patrons will have unlimited use of trails, with several rides for patrons only, and other perks such as passes to polo and free schooling. Proceeds from the donor program will go into Morven's general fund.

Lovettsville Park: Kelly said that grade work had begun and that Mark Novak was planning to put in one or two arenas. There was a discussion about whether equestrians would use the facility, and it was generally agreed that one ring would be sufficient.

Catesby: Paula said she has attempted to contact Catesby owners, hoping that the Four-in-Hand Club could get permission to include a luncheon stop at Catesby on their drive from Ayrshire.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee