

## Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – April 21, 2015

The meeting began at 9:27 a.m. Attendees were: Lizzie Beer, Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, ~~Richard Gargagliano~~, Stephanie Jennings, ~~Michelle (Sheli) King~~, Marion Lee, ~~Janie Rentz~~, Terri Smithson, Mary Terpak, and Terri Young. Guests at the meeting were Eric Zicht, David Hubbuch, Mark Depo, and Packy Crown from the Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG) Rules Subcommittee; Joanne Hart representing Loudoun Therapeutic Riding; and Sheryl Williams representing Morven Park.

**Secretary:** The minutes of February 17, 2015, were approved.

**Membership:** Mary said there were 59 members: 36 individual members and 23 business members.

**Treasurer:** Stephanie said there is \$2294 in the LCEA account. Our check to Tri-State for a table at the sale event February 21 (which was cancelled) is still outstanding. Stephanie will ask for a refund.

**ZOAG (Zoning Ordinance Action Group):** Mark Stultz spoke about the formation of ZOAG in 2002 when equestrian facility definitions were formed. There were discussions and questions about definitions of equestrian facilities; “special events” (the number of events is more important than the number of horses); grandfathered properties (legally established properties are legal forever unless the use is abandoned for two or more years); and other zoning aspects. He said agriculture is allowed in almost every zone, and that zoning staff addresses problems rather than providing advice. He spoke of the issues of reducing agricultural (equestrian) impact on neighboring residential areas and vice versa. Packy suggested that LCEA members raise issues or problems we have encountered rather than trying to understand all the regulations. An LCEA Zoning Subcommittee was established, consisting of Stephanie, Terri Young, and Paula. They will invite Mark to a subcommittee meeting next week and plan to provide input to the ZOAG subcommittee by mid-June, so that it can be presented to the full ZOAG meeting in July. It was suggested that our subcommittee look at equestrian zoning regulations in other Virginia counties.

**Election of Officers:** Current officers were elected unanimously for another year: Kelly Foltman – president; Sheli King – vice-president; Marion Lee – secretary; and Stephanie Jennings – treasurer.

**LCEA Email:** Kelly said that LCEA needs to get its own version of Constant Contact. Board members present approved a motion that Stephanie acquire Constant Contact for LCEA.

**LCEA Website:** Board members approved purchasing GoDaddy for another year if our agreement expires before the next meeting. Since GoDaddy cannot provide the capability to roll the calendar or search for businesses, it was agreed that we would explore different webhosting software. Louise will research webhosting software and report her findings at the next meeting.

**LOCOTA:** Paula said there was no news. The next meeting is tomorrow.

**Purcellville Reservoir:** Kelly represented LCEA at a Purcellville Town Council meeting on March 10 during which “Friends of Purcellville Reservoir” presented a talk on the benefits of opening the Purcellville reservoir to the public. Member groups of LOCOTA, including LCEA, and a number of individuals, spoke in support of this effort. Only two individuals spoke against opening the reservoir, and they were the two landowners who provide reservoir access to the town. There is currently no public road access into the area, and this in Kelly’s opinion will continue to be the largest legitimate road block.

**Virginia Agribusiness Council Networking Reception:** Louise and Sheli attended this event at the Fabbiola Winery on April 9.

**Educational Meetings:** Trailer Care will not be a topic for a future educational meeting. Further discussion on educational meetings was postponed until the next meeting.

**Committees:** A discussion of committees and committee membership was postponed to the next meeting.

**September Meeting Location:** This is a morning meeting, and it can't be held at Morven due to the Middleburg Classic. Alternate locations were discussed, as well as the possibility of changing it to an evening meeting.

**Banner:** Lizzie said she would purchase a banner, and will report back on pricing and design before ordering.

**New Business:**

**Loudoun Times Mirror:** Mary and Kelly attended a meeting on April 15 with Peter Arundel, publisher of the Loudoun Times Mirror, and Bruce Smart to encourage the paper to print more equestrian news. Mr. Arundel said he would be happy to publish a Loudoun equestrian calendar twice a year if LCEA would gather the info and provide it to the paper. Mary will head this effort.

**Loudoun Conservation Alliance:** Kelly and Mary attended a meeting on March 31. Mary will plan to attend future monthly meetings.

**MARE Center:** Kelly suggested scheduling Friday evening socials at the MARE Center, where people could see examples of various types of pastures and other examples of equine agriculture. It was decided that LCEA should invite people to attend and bring their own picnics. Kelly will follow up with Dr. McIntosh.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 18, at the Marshall House Business Office in Leesburg at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee