

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – June 16, 2015

Attendees were: ~~Dorothy Beach~~, Paula Beckett Bliss, Kellie Boles, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, ~~Janie Rentz~~, ~~Jacqui Ross~~, Mary Terpak, ~~Janet Vandervart~~, Cassie Walls, Emily Houston, and Terri Young.

The meeting began at 9:15 a.m.

Secretary: The minutes of May 18, 2015, were approved.

Membership: Mary said there were 61 members. Kelly explained the Google spreadsheet she developed for board members to use to record information about potential members. Several board members did not get her email with the link, so she will resend it.

Treasurer: Stephanie said there is \$2292.37 in the LCEA account, which includes \$80 from Lizzie Beer towards the purchase of an LCEA banner.

Guest report: Emily Houston reported on new development in the Waterford area. Nearby horse owners would like an easement on the property for equine trails. Some easements exist on other properties, but they are just on road shoulders. Horse owners would like to have a bigger network of trails, and Emily would like guidance in how to accomplish this. She said the Waterford equestrian group had already met with the developer, Carrington Homes. Mary suggested the Foggy Bottom Ladies in Bluemont as a good example of how equestrians should interact with landowners. Terri Young said that half of the Beacon Hills trails are being given back to the homeowners.

Survey: No update. Completion is still expected within 2 – 3 months.

LOCOTA/Trails: Paula said there is a need to map trails. Some people have been experimenting with a map app. The next LOCOTA meeting is tomorrow. There is a potential for a Heritage trail on Shelden Island in the Potomac.

Kelly said Short Hill property owners are not amenable to an equestrian trail on Mountain Road. Paula reported there were many road closings for biking on Mountain Road, and Kellie Boles said that she should contact the Loudoun County Special Events Coordinator to voice a complaint. A permit is required for bike rides that require road closings.

Marion reported that she had investigated Beaverdam Reservoir for a possible equine trail. The current hiking trail is fairly short and narrow, but an onsite NVRPA employee said that there were plans to widen the trail and perhaps make a trail all the way around the reservoir. After next summer, the reservoir will be closed for 1 ½ - 2 years to repair the dam. NVRPA is working with Loudoun Water (owner of the reservoir) and the University of Virginia Institute for Environmental Negotiations to develop a long-term plan. Marion will follow up.

Kelly said she had hiked the trails from Edwards Landing through Balls Bluff to Veterans Park and thought there was great potential for an equestrian trail, especially at Veterans Park. The Heritage Trail goes through all three parks, but currently none of them are accessible for horses. Some of the problems: no parking at Edwards Landing; Balls Bluff is considered hallowed ground, which means no horses are allowed; limited parking at Balls Bluff; and currently, no horses are allowed at Veteran's Park, as it is a Leesburg Park

Kelly reported that problems continue to exist at Franklin Park for equestrians. The concept plan included two rings and an equestrian trail. Disc golf (which was not in the concept plan) impinges on the equestrian trail in several sections, and an ADA trail scheduled for construction by the fall will come within feet of the equestrian trail. LCEA has not been successful in getting changes made at Franklin Park. Kelly has another meeting scheduled with Parks and Recreation on Friday the 26th to discuss the issues further.

Mary asked about equestrian possibilities on the site of the Virginia National Golf Course, which is no longer functioning. She will find out whether it is in Loudoun County and investigate further.

ZOAG (Zoning Ordinance Action Group): Stephanie met with Mark Depo, who is writing new regulations for equestrian facilities based on the B&B regulations. Equestrian event facility definitions are also being rewritten using banquet

event facility definitions as a model. The LCEA ZOAG committee has rewritten definitions of Private Stables and Livery Stables. Stephanie read these at the meeting, and she will email the definitions to board members.

LCEA Website: Louise said her husband Brad is in the process of rewriting the LCEA website using Word Press, which is free, but GoDaddy will still be needed for web hosting. The \$345 cost of GoDaddy for five years was approved by the majority of board members present. Word Press will enable us to enhance calendar access and add new features such as blogging. Brad has agreed to be the LCEA webmaster. Sheli suggested giving Brad gift certificates for his efforts. Kellie Boles suggested that we send Brad Word documents rather than trying to format the documents for him.

Educational Meetings: Marion suggested that we ask the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center at Morven Park to focus the lecture LCEA co-hosts with them on equine ulcers.

Future Meetings: We need a new location for the Monday, July 20, evening meeting, possibly the Best Western motel.

Banner: Stephanie presented two ideas for an LCEA banner (for which Lizzie Beer donated \$80), but after much discussion about the logo, there was no agreement on which design to use.

Loudoun Department of Economic Development: Kellie Boles said that Terri Smithson has moved to a new organization and that she(Kellie) would be DED's liaison to LCEA in the future.

Loudoun Equine Events: Mary mentioned some upcoming equine events: the Pam Am selection trial at Great Meadows on June 19 – 21, a carriage competition at Morven Park on July 4 & 5, and a discussion of "Eventing: Past, Present, and Future" at the National Sporting Library in Middleburg on the evening of Wednesday, June 17.

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

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee

LCEA Committees 2015 as of 6/16/15 – Committee Heads Underlined

Educational/Annual Meeting: Michelle King and Mary Terpak,

Executive: Kelly Foltman, Michelle King, Marion Lee, and Stephanie Jennings

Facilities: Mary Terpak, Kelly Foltman

Marketing: Stephanie Jennings, Terri Young (PR), Kelly Foltman, Janet Vandervaart

Membership: Mary Terpak

Trails/LOCOTA: Paula Beckett, Janet Vandervaart, Kelly Foltman

Task Forces

Equine Survey: Kelly Foltman

Zoning: Stephanie Jennings, Paula Beckett, Terri Young