

## **Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – November 14, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15.

Board members present were Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee (arrived late) and Christie Kimberlin. Janet Vandervaart, was excused.

**Secretary:** The minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting were approved.

**Treasurer:** Stephanie reported that there was a balance of \$4,028.56 in the LCEA account. Recent payments included the \$450 deposit to Stone Tower for the Expo and \$25 to the Virginia Corporation Commission.

**Membership:** Sheli reported that we have a total of 99 members – 41 individual members and 58 business members. 60 memberships expire in December. Stephanie & Sheli will work on a renewal reminder to be sent to those members.

**Joint Tuesday Talks:** We will assist the EMC to publicize the event, and will also handle registration. Kelly made a motion that was seconded by Louise that we spend up to \$200 to cover the refreshments. Sign in will be handled by Louise, hopefully assisted by Marion.

**Expo update:** We reviewed initial assignments. Sheli will purchase the paper goods, including tablecloths and will order the food, to be picked up by Janet and Stephanie. We need board members to sign up for set up and tear down. We discussed getting a few significant door prizes, and any donor will be a prime sponsor of the Expo. Kelly will contact the EMC and Morven Park and Stephanie will reach out to Southern States and Visit Loudoun.

**Annual Meeting:** Kelly and Sheli are meeting with representatives of the National Sporting Library in early December to explore the possibility of holding LCEA's annual meeting at their facility in May or June. They will report back at the next board meeting and in the meantime, board members should think of other options in case the Sporting Library is a no-go. Another Turn Tack and the Mare Center were raised as alternative venues.

**Meeting dates for 2018:** Our 2018 meeting dates will track those of 2017, for both day and evening meetings.

**Rural roads/Drive Gently :** Things were on a bit of a hold pending the election, but now the groups will again push forward with their legislative initiative. The Rural Roads and Drive Gently groups need to work together to avoid duplication and increase effectiveness. Among the legislative initiatives that will be advanced is one dealing with how to pass horses on the road and another that would legislate that the speed limit on any unmarked road is 25 MPH.

**Conservation Coalition:** The Board approved the formation of a committee to work on the subject of scoring roads.

**County strategy position paper/Transition Policy Area:** Emily has been working with Don Goff of the Transition Area Alliance who has been reaching out to businesses in the transition area. Equestrian groups in the TPA would like to work with LCEA. We will hold our January meeting in the evening on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and invite these equestrian businesses to attend our meeting to see if we can work together to

advance the equestrian needs in the TPA. We will also invite Supervisors Buffington and Higgins and their staffs to attend.

Also, TriState would like LCEA to attend one of their meetings, along with USTR. We will work to make that happen in February, with each group having a separate board meeting first followed by a joint meeting that focuses primarily on trail initiatives and how the three groups can effectively work together.

There is an application going before the Board of Supervisors to build a Data Center in the Transition Area, close to a watershed. Everyone needs to reach out to the Board to express their opposition. Piedmont Environmental Coalition has a link on their website on this topic as well as a sample email for people to use. Also, commercial shooting ranges are now being considered as an approved use. We need to highlight the negative impact this would have on the rural ambiance of Western Loudoun County, with consequential adverse economic impact for the county.

**TLAER training with Marion duPont Scott:** We had an initial planning meeting with EMC to begin reviving this project. Janet has been working with the presenter to determine available dates from her and once we have that information, we will reach out to MP to see if their indoor is be available,

**Trails/Oatlands:** The new Director is interested in opening the property to trail riding, utilizing a pay per use system. The Oatlands Board needs to grant approval but the Director is optimistic that this will be granted.

Kelly has been in touch with the president of the Friends of Banshee Reeks, Suzanne de Sais, and Kelly & Janet will set up a meeting with her at a date to be determined.

**Polo at Morven:** We would like to propose a number of suggestions for half-time entertainment to MP and allow them to pick the ones they are interested in pursuing. The following ideas will be fleshed out – a driving demonstration, a presentation by a local pony club, a cutting/reining horse demo, a puissance-like jumping exhibition and a dressage Musical Freestyle. Individual board members will work on fleshing out each of these ideas.

**Board Nominations:** All board members need to think about recruiting new board members. We will target May for the Board election.

**Next meeting December 19 – 6:45 pm** – Residence of Marion Lee, LCEA Secretary

Respectfully Submitted, Sheli King for Marion Lee