

## LCEA Teleconference Minutes - April 21, 2020

Board members participating were Kelly Foltman, ~~Louise Cotulla~~, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, ~~Christie Kimberlin~~, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, Reid O'Connor, and Janet Vandervaart.

The meeting began at approximately 5:05pm.

### **Membership Report (Sheli):**

Sheli reported 1 new individual member.

### **Treasurer Report (Stephanie):**

Stephanie reported there was money saved as a result of the Expo cancellation. Stephanie will email Expo table purchasers again about refunds. She said a large percentage of vendors who have responded are transferring to next year.

### **TLAER:**

Kelly emphasized the need to be fluid with TLAER depending on Government restrictions. The Fair Grounds contacted Stephanie last week. They said they will hold onto our check and get back in touch with us in June. Board agreed our primary concern is with ensuring implementation of social distancing protocols. Reid asked about the possibility of a virtual component of the training, and Kelly said this would not be possible because participants could not get RACE certification for a virtual course. The awareness component needs to be on site in order for it to be RACE approved. Kelly is finishing pulling together the information for the RACE certification, including the total number of possible hours. She said we will need to have a form for participants to sign in and out in order to create an acknowledgment of the number of hours the vets and vet techs were in attendance. Kelly said the approved RACE credits are valid for two years, so LCEA could do the event next year and transfer the RACE certification. This is important because applying for RACE certification is costly. Board discussed potential refunds, and when we might expect future payments. Kelly asked about Rebecca's flexibility and Janet said she would get in touch with her. Board agreed on the need to establish a firm date after which to reassess. Board discussed having a possible postponement date for the same time (second half of August) next year (2021). Marion said she believed it would be hard to reschedule for later in this year as so many things have been cancelled and are looking for Fall reschedule dates. Board agreed a whole year postponement would be the best option. Stephanie said so far 18 have signed up for operational and one for the awareness. The spots are over half-way filled for the operational portion. Board agreed to make June 15 the date to reassess, as the Governor's current mandate expires on June 10. After reassessing on June 15, the Board decided to contact operational participants and ask if they are comfortable participating. Board agreed on the importance of gauging the comfort level of participants and funders. Janet said she is not worried about filling the spots, and the most important thing is making the right decision. Board agreed. Kelly said regardless of what is decided on June 15,

LCEA needs to reach out to people who have signed up, and the funders, to update them. Janet asked about VHIB grant and if it can be used outside of the year. Kelly said she would look into this. Board agreed to push the June monthly meeting to the 15<sup>th</sup> to reevaluate.

**Aberdeen and Oatlands (Kelly):**

No updates on Aberdeen. Kelly said that Caleb (Director of Oatlands) would like LCEA to walk the property and map trails. Kelly said Oatlands is currently closed because of COVID-19, and the weather has been difficult, but she hopes to be able to map the property soon.

**Zoning:**

Emily and Kelly have completed their part of the work for the zoning project. The next step is small group session with a zoning rewrite group. Kelly and Emily will send the PDF with their work. A zoning meeting was scheduled for the following week.

**LCEA COVID-19 Response:**

Kelly suggested LCEA put together a letter containing experiences from local equestrian business to share with the BOS and Department of Economic Development in order to demonstrate how the equine industry is fairing during this crisis. Emily suggested that this information could be anecdotal and contain ideas of what the County Government could do to help. Reid will put together a Facebook post calling for anecdotes and personal experiences to be shared with LCEA. Personal information will stay anonymous and participants will be directed to the LCEA email to consolidate the information. Kelly said she wrote a personal letter to Supervisors Randall and Buffington about her businesses suggesting the BOS and Economic Development potentially use money allotted for promoting new business to retaining old businesses. Reid said she would post on April 22 and Board agreed that individuals would be given until Wednesday, April 29, to share their experiences for the first round. Sheli suggested the Board should also submit to the LCEA email address. Kelly said this may be an ongoing project and we could submit other reports as things progress. She emphasized the importance of encouraging businesses to continue to reach out to LCEA as things develop and to contact us with any future problems. Kelly said this first report is just meant to be a snapshot in time. Emily volunteered to reach out to the Upperville Horse Show to see if they might have data on the economic effect of postponing the show. Sheli suggested also reaching out to Morven Park. Emily will reach out to Morven Park and Upperville. Board briefly discussed potential changes to shows and qualifying events during COVID-19.

**New Business:**

Emily scheduled an executive meeting with Supervisor Caleb Kershner for April 22. Sheli asked about the subject and objective of the meeting. Kelly said the goal was a “meet and greet”. Emily said she had sent him the Economic Impact Study. She mentioned she would want to bring up the case for rural preservation and its effect on the equestrian industry, as well as the relationship to traditional agriculture in the county. Kelly said Supervisor Kershner would likely want to know about the effect of COVID-19 on the equine industry.

Emily said she did not have any further updates on the printing of *Horse Times*. She said they will definitely print two more issues, but do not know when they will print and what content

they will be printing. Emily emphasized the fact that with store closures their traditional distribution network is not accessible at the moment.

**Next Meeting: May 19 at 5pm**