

LCEA Teleconference Minutes - May 19, 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 5:06pm.

Approval of April minutes: Approved

Membership report: Sheli reported 1 new business member and 1 individual renewal. LCEA now has 90 total members, 70 businesses and 20 individuals.

Treasurer report: Stephanie reported a balance of \$23,226.33. Expenses from last month were for Constant Contact and an Expo vendor who cashed their refund check.

LPAT/PROS update: Kelly reported that the scope of work went out and will stay open until June 15. The committee is interviewing businesses for the signature project: a trail loop system in the TPA. They hope to have the interviews done and people working on it by mid-August. Kelly said the scope of work does not have to go back to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Emily asked how many companies had applied and Kelly said at least 6. They are not limiting interviews to local companies.

Oatlands update: Kelly is working with Glenn Gillis from the Potomac Heritage Trail Commission on the map. She hopes to have something soon.

Horse Times article: Emily said *Horse Times* was going to print on Wednesday 5/20. She said the LCEA ad came out well. She mentioned there was an article about Loudoun's rural roads being added to Preservation Virginia's 2020 list of Endangered Historic Sites. LCEA advocacy was mentioned in the article. Emily asked to put the press release on the Facebook page and will send it out to the Board. Emily reported that America's Routes has applied to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) for a designation of "eligible" for National Register listing of western Loudoun's entire rural road network. The determination of "eligibility" is significant in itself, and will provide important public awareness of the roads as historic assets.

Meeting with Supervisor Kershner: Kelly reported that the Executive Committee gave Supervisor Kershner an overview of the equine industry in Loudoun. He asked about a possible equestrian park and the Committee suggested he take a look into the Clarke County effort, and speak with Morven Park, to make sure there was no overlap. Emily mentioned that Supervisor Kershner showed genuine interest in the surface options for rural roads. She also mentioned he was not in favor of uniform zoning. Kelly suggested LCEA have conversations with each Supervisor to get an understanding of their opinions on zoning. Kelly suggested setting up the dates. Emily reported that the new surface testing for unpaved roads is on pause because of manufacturing delays related to COVID-19.

Emily reported that she participated in Chair Randall's quarterly rural meeting. Most of the discussion centered around the controversy of clusters and the effect that regulating them would have on the value of conservation easements. She mentioned Chuck Kuhn had been nominated for Loudoun Laurels.

TLAER update: Kelly had a meeting with Loudoun Economic Development earlier on 5/19. She mentioned they would like to help the project move forward and they suggested an option for an alternate event format taking social distancing into account. They suggested hiring a camera crew to do

the awareness portion of the event online, and also stream to the operational portion. This would, however, result in substantial increased costs upwards of \$5,000. Kelly said she reported to them that this would likely be too expensive and time consuming for the Board. Reid asked about RACE certification, as it had posed a problem for virtual participation earlier. Kelly said if the Board was interested in taking on the project, she would go back to RACE to see about certification, as they were likely receiving many similar requests. Software would allow us to track who was attending and for how long. Emily said she spoke with Rebecca who is starting to have some courses in early to mid-June. Board discussed the possibility of filming the session and then distributing it as a class afterward, but this would be at Rebecca's discretion. Stephanie said that the technical part of undertaking the project seemed overwhelming for the Board and would be a full-time job. Board agreed. Additionally, Board felt increased costs were too high, either for filming live or creating a video package. Janet emphasized the fact the operational portion will not allow for social distancing and is hands-on with close contact. Sheli suggested the Board contact first responders first to see if they are still interested, or with the current climate, if they will be allowed to participate in such close proximity. Janet emphasized that the most important thing is to make sure people are comfortable, even with loosening restriction. Board agreed determining whether or not the first responders will participate is the next step. Emily said Rebecca might have a better sense after her June classes. Board agreed to touch base with her then to see how the classes went. Sheli will reach out to Animal Control and Janet will reach out to Little Fork to gauge comfort levels. Board agreed to start with the two big groups and see what kind of response LCEA gets. Board unanimously concluded that a video component would be too overwhelming, and that if LCEA cannot go forward this year it is best to postpone until next year. Kelly will let Economic Development know. Board agreed to make final decision about whether to proceed with the event at June 16 meeting.

COVID related updates:

Kelly reported that LCEA received many good write-ups from local equine businesses on how they are dealing with the pandemic. She suggested LCEA reach back out in 4 – 6 months to see how they are doing then and gauge the impact of grants received. Board agreed. Marion reported that from her correspondence all those who had asked for grants had received them. Kelly discussed a few glitches with the grants; she said they were not for non-profits and the requirement was that businesses be down 25% in income from this time last year and not just 25% down overall. Kelly reported that the Board of Supervisors is voting on another package. Board agreed the inclusion of non-profits is really important. Kelly encouraged Board members to reach out to businesses and let them know LCEA is working to help them to find additional resources. Kelly reported that the Executive Committee had raised the red-flag regarding the three employee eligibility minimum for the original grants during the discussion with Supervisor Kershner and as a result the requirement changed, helping LCEA constituents.

New Business:

Sheli reported that the Maryland Horse Council was holding a Zoom meeting on insurance during COVID-19, which is big issue for horse shows etc. Sheli asked if LCEA could do something similar for members. Kelly suggested reaching out to VHIB or VA Horse Council to see if they had something like this planned. Kelly will contact Heather at VHIB to see what she suggests.

Kelly reported she had spoken with Heather from VHIB about their desire to help the local horse industry financially. Heather said that VHIB cannot give money directly to individuals but can give it to organizations. Kelly suggested that LCEA might want to be involved. Board agreed that it would be too difficult for LCEA to distribute money, but perhaps LCEA could help to get this added to future Economic Development packages. Kelly said VHIB told her LCEA could hold onto the grant money for TLAER for next year if it is postponed until 2021.

NSLM Open Late Concerts – Reid reported June concert cancellation. Board agreed to reassess later in the summer to see if another concert date might work.

Kelly reported on a letter sent by the Board of Supervisors to the Secretary of Agriculture on behalf of the Middleburg Spring Races, asking to run the races on June 13 without spectators.

Next Meetings: June 16. Time TBD