

## LCEA Meeting Minutes - October 15, 2019

The meeting began at approximately 7:09pm.

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

**Approval of September minutes:** Kelly made slight changes – minutes approved

**Membership report:** no updates

**Treasurer report:** no updates

**Emerald Ribbons/PROS update: Kelly**

The scope of work is finalized and going out for the BOS to vote on at their December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The group walked a small trail in the Ashburn area two weekends ago (Loudoun Valley Trail). There will be a trail work day Sunday, November 17–Stakeholders are invited to see the trail, and assess what it needs for maintenance and signage. The trail could extend to a 9 mile loop with plans to eventually have equestrian parking and trail access.

**Aberdeen property: Kelly**

The Purcellville Town Council has multiple questions about the trails including design, maintenance, and usage fees. The trails will be multi-use and the town is not expected to pay anything additional for maintenance. Trails could be laid out and brush trimmed by volunteers in a weekend. Janet suggested temporarily marking the trails with ribbons to see how the trail flows before setting more permanent signage. LCEA can provide trail signs. The town will need to provide general park signs. In addition to trails there is the possibility for 2 pads for arenas, a pad for temporary stalls, the possibility to restore the barns, and added trailer parking. Board discussed the formation of a possible “Friends of” group to head up a 503c3 application for the property. Board agreed that while it is important to maintain a voice, LCEA should not be responsible for the whole process.

**Oatlands property: Kelly**

Kelly reported on the progress at Oatlands. Everything is moving forwards. Kelly had a meeting with the Executive Director and the Oatlands Board. Oatlands would like user groups to sign a MOU. GMU and Loudoun County Public Schools have created a 4k cross country course on the property which will be part of the shared multi-use trails. The next step for the group is to reopen the wood trails and to create signage. Board discussed the membership and access system. Trail-access is going to be added to the regular membership as an incentive with no extra cost. \$50 is the lowest level of membership. It is possible that the new system might be running by January. Kelly asked Janet about the USTR memorial day ride. Janet said they need 8-10 miles. Kelly says there is interest from Oatlands in hosting the event. Janet and Kelly will discuss this separately.

**America's Routes: Emily**

America's Routes succeeded in getting a grant from the Loudoun Preservation Society. Emily put forward a motion for LCEA to draft a letter in support of the initiative with LCEA Board Members and Titles. Board voted unanimously in favor.

**501 status review:** no updates – but check cashed

**TLAER update:**

Board agreed that the trifolds need to be followed up with personal ask – not just left out. The course is not limited to Loudoun County. Board discussed the allocation of spots. Board agreed it should be first-come-first-serve. There are 30 spots in total. Kelly asked about how many spots we keep back for Loudoun. Janet emphasized that we need Little Fork's equipment and so need to make sure we have space for them. Board agreed to set aside five spaces for Little Fork. Board discussed reserving spots for vets and how many spaces should we save for Loudouners. Board agreed to set a certain amount until 30 days prior. Janet to confirm what Little Fork needs. Half of the slots will be allocated between Loudoun (10) and Little Fork (5). If the program makes any money, the money should go to equipment for Loudoun. Janet said LCEA has a good chance with 2 grants - VHIB and US Equestrian Trust. Kelly will reach out to VAEP and let them know they can have up to 15 slots for vets up to 60 days out. Board discussed the involvement of food trucks and catering logistics.

**New Business:**

Kelly introduced "Think Outside," a program formed out of REDC. The idea is to get more agricultural learning in the classroom. They are in the process of putting together modules and want to include LCEA. For \$100 our LCEA logo can be featured on the t-shirts given to all participants. Board voted unanimously in favor. Board needs to decide on the topic and individual to present.

Marion asked about equine events page on web. Reid mentioned that Stephanie can get input from other board members.

Board agreed to add a "Donate Now" button for the website for TLAER.

Board discussed an abbreviated version of minutes for the website.

Board scheduled the Christmas meeting to be held on December 10 at Marion's home.

**Next Meeting: November 19, 2019** – 9:30 am. Morven Park, Hoffman Classroom, 41580 Sunday Morning Lane, Leesburg, VA 20176