

Cattaraugus County Equestrian Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

Prepared by Becky Smith and Scott Miller 10/13/06

In Attendance:

Advisory Committee; Allan Gerstung, Lenny Brainard, Tom Livak, Bob Pfohl, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Annie Widger, Veronica Weber,

General Attendance;

Scott Miller, Janet Pfohl, Becky Smith, Terry Martin, Steve Lord, Judy Dalton, Ainsley Smith, Terri Lord, Rick, Lefeber

Absent Committee Members; Tony Orsini, Jim Toner, Lori Northrup, Sharon Nolan, Teri Parker, Annet Taapken, Jim Little, JoAnne Young, Mary Beth Trenchard

General Discussion;

Agenda Review;

1. Review July and May meeting minutes and approve;

The meeting minutes from the May 18th meeting were reviewed, but were not formally approved because we lacked a quorum. The May 18th meeting minutes will need to be officially approved at the next meeting. Under the "Trails Committee" section it should read; Terry Martin suggested that key segments of trails (trail-heads, trail intersections, and bottle-neck areas) should be secured with easements and right-of-ways. Plus we should be looking at connector trails.

The meeting minutes from the July 13th meeting were reviewed, but were not formally approved because we lacked a quorum. The July 13th meeting minutes will need to be officially approved at the next meeting.

2. UB Law School- Easements;

UB Law School did not show because of the weather.

3. Subcommittee updates and review of goals-

Subcommittee Chairs;

Trails Committee-

Veronica Weber

Competition/Events/Education Committee-

Charlene Aronson

Marketing/Tourism/Website/Brochure Committee-

Annie Widger

Advocacy Committee-

Leah Leising

Trails Committee Update- by Veronica Weber

She would like to see a visitors packet put together to help equestrian visitors. She would also like to see the public trails mapped out and available for visitors. Finally possibly getting RFDTV to do a show about CC equine.

Janet Pfohl-

Would like to see the trials available on the Internet, also could there be emergency contact phone numbers.

Steve Lord-

There is spotty cell phone coverage inside Allegany State Park. Numbers for Vet services.

Marketing/Tourism/Website/Brochure Committee Update- by Annie Widger

Annie wants to get the Committee logo finalized. She also gave an update on activities of the "equine education barn" at the Cattaraugus County Fair. Many people came through the barn and there was free equine information along with give-aways, and different breeds of horses on display. Names were collected to add to equine mailing database. She would like more people to get involved next year.

Al G-

Asked how many horses were housed during the fair? There were 13 horses there.

Advocacy Committee Update- by Leah Leising

Leah wants to see continued work on "inherent risk" She also sees certain NYS politicians standing in the way of moving forward regarding "inherent risk." Leah wants to see more support of the equine education barn at the fair. NYS lawmakers did not pass any specific equine laws this year. She also inquired about how the CCEAC distributes information to lawmakers.

Al G-

Maybe we can present information to local lawmakers for specific resolutions supporting equines.

Tom L-

Present equine matters to Ag & Dev Committee for starters, then a committee of the whole can be used to present major equine events. Send minutes to all County Legislators.

Annie W-

Wondered if county lawmakers stood behind liability/inherent risk issues.

Tom L-

Yes the county is supporting liability/inherent risk. More counties in NYS need to support liability/inherent risk before any major in-roads are made on a state level. NYS Association of Counties may be a good organization to present liability/inherent risk issues to.

Leah L-

Saratoga County now has equine program.

Al G-

Advocacy committee to contact new Saratoga group.

Janet P-

Slide presentation from NYSHC is an excellent source of equine information. Maybe we can use it in some of our initiatives.

Steve L-

There are many equine people and groups and we need to get all groups to work on common issues. Use larger group to push ideas. We need to make it known that Western NYS supports horses.

Annie W-

How can we get other counties involved?

Tom L-

There is a small association of Western NY counties. May be a good place to start. Provide them with a one-page overview of liability/inherent risk and information on equine groups.

Judy D-

Add groups together to have strength in numbers.

**Competition/Events/Education Committee Update-
Charlene Aronson was absent from the meeting. No update.**

4. Yearly Equine Calendar;

Al G-

Wants to make sure all Cattaraugus County equine events are listed on the county tourism website.

Becky S-

Can post events on County tourism website and with NYS if event information is given to here ASAP. There are deadlines for publication in NYS tourism books.

Janet P-

Has seen NYS tourism fall foliage book and said it was well done and we should have local information in there.

Leah L-

Catt/Chaut Chapter NYSHC has "roundup" scheduled for 2-18-06 at location to be decided. She will also be glad to publish information in newsletter. Open to all equine groups and businesses, ok to set up displays.

Janet P-

We need to make sure smaller clubs are getting equine information. Not everyone is involved on a larger scale.

Terry M-

Is it possible to not have Creekside Roundup and NYSHC yearly meeting on same day? This has occurred in the past and causes a conflict for local participation at both events.

5. Equine Survey and Evaluation;

Scott M-

We had roughly one dozen surveys completed at the Catt Co Fair. Committee members need to help distribute survey at equine events. The survey will provide the group with good information; we just need to do a better job distributing it. There are also the names Annie Widger collected at the fair and the Creekside Roundup conducted its own survey and the results will not be in for a few weeks.

Annie W-

Can the equine survey be put online?

Scott M-

I will ask if it can be done

Tom L-

Maybe we can get survey in equine club mailings and Cornell Coop Newsletter. Have other organizations help.

6. Creekside Roundup Overview;

Al G-

Brought in photo slideshow of Creekside Roundup. The photomontage was very well done.

7. Follow-up of old business;

Revisit of Sheldon Silver newspaper article encouraging individuals sue NYS when they get hurt in NYS parks.

Bob P-

Said he had heard that Sheldon Silvers NYS District includes areas of NYC where if a good candidate could come forward he/she may win because of numbers of diverse populations.

Steve L-

Golden Hill State Forest area is not currently an approved area for equine trails. Vic Anderson has not been receptive to the idea of equine trails at Golden Hill. Vic has Jackson Hill State Forest as multi-use. Mountain bikers currently occupy Golden Hill.

8. Open discussion;

Bob P-

He wanted to praise Terry Martin regarding the presentation he gave at the NYSC Annual meeting. He wanted to thank Terry for his efforts.

Terry M-

Said he talked about building bridges between equine and non-equine people.

Bob P-

Had an idea that maybe we can expand the “wagon train” that went to Smethport Fair and have our own Cattaraugus County event. Make the destination coincide with a particular county event.

Steve L-

Add more events at Creekside Roundup. Let individuals have the option of joining the wagon train for a day, if they could not do 3-day trip.

Len B-

Was part of the “wagon train” to Smethport. There were a couple of wagons of different shapes and sizes used for the trip. Trip went very well.

Janet P-

We should try to incorporate some sort of historical presentation if we do a wagon train.

Terry M-

Is selling hats to support the Pat McGee Trail. Cost is \$12 per hat. Contact Rick L or Terry M. if interested in purchasing.

Terry M-

Wanted everyone to know that Cattaraugus County will not be receiving equine trails grant money. The Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC is applying for the grant and will receive the money if application is successful. Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC will be using the money for trail work in the Pine Hill/South Valley area.

Leah L-

Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC is applying for a \$75,000 trails grant from the NYSHC. She is gathering information for the grant application, due date for application is end of year. In gathering information the Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC had a meeting with county representatives about land and facility use in the Pine Hill/South Valley area.

Terry M-

Thought the meeting with the County and Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC went well.

Judy D-

Equestrian was in original development plan for Onoville area.

Terry M-

The NYSHC needs a solid proposal to secure the grant. Another Chapter already did not follow through with their plan, that is why local chapter getting shot at applying.

Judy D-

Having the County and DEC involved can only be good to support grant application of the Catt/Chaut Chapter of the NYSHC.

Bob P-

Wants the local NYSHC Chapter get grant money and not other Chapters in state.

Terry M.

Nancy ? who works for NYS is involved with equine and trails is a good contact.

Al G-

Franklinville is also submitting a trails grant to NYS for development in and around Case Lake.

Tom L-

Is there enough planning being done in the Onoville/Pine Hill/south Valley area to make sure equines are in future use plans. Crystal Abers is supposed to visit trailhead site near Onoville, she has been supportive thus far.

CCEAC-

The equine committee will write a letter-of-support for trails grant.

Rick L-

Gave short overview of Cattaraugus Local Development Corporation. CLDC owns Pat McGee Trail. First full year of trail use; feedback has mainly been positive, only a few obstacles. Trail patrol has helped keep the trail safe.

Terry M-

Picnic tables on Pat McGee trail were vandalized. Rick then had kids who did it come help fix them up.

Rick L-

There has recently been some theft of materials. Geocaching has also become a popular trail activity.

9. Adjournment;

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 14th at 7pm in the Legislative Chamber 3rd floor Cattaraugus County Building, Little Valley, NY.