

Equine Advisory Committee

Al Gerstung, Chairman

Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee Meeting
Cattaraugus County Center
November 29, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Advisory Committee Members Present: Allan J. Gerstung, Chair; Annie Widger, Vice Chair; Mary Beth Trenchard, Secretary; Len Brainard, Bonnie Hall, Jim Leising, Leah Leising, James Little, Thomas Livak, Robert Pfohl, Jim Toner, Veronica Weber

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Charlene Aronson, Sharon Nolan, Lori Northrup, Tony Orsini, Annet Taapken, JoAnne Young

General Attendance: James Isaacson, Senior Planner; Terry Martin, County Consultant; Terry Crisafulli, Janet Pfohl, Dolly Little

Chairman Al Gerstung called meeting to order at 7 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 18, 2007 were corrected to read: Minutes of September 12, 2007 approved, and in New Business – Annie Widger made motion to apply for grant money.

James Toner moved with a second from Barney Weber to approve the October 18, 2007 minutes as corrected. Carried.

Old Business

Thomas Livak distributed copies of the Wagon Train trail map and displayed a large copy. The map marks sustainable trails that have easements, and marked businesses. Discussion on what was to be on the back – trail blurb – photo's. Tom Livak also stated that no trails will be added to the map that are not documented/approved. Discussion on other trails to possibly be added to map.

Reports from Standing Committees

Advocacy Committee – Leah Leising received an email from the American Quarter Horse Association concerning a bill being presented in Louisiana to amend the shipping of slaughter horses. The email encourages all to call and oppose the Senate Bill 3:11 which is vague and ambiguous.

In Cornell – a new business called Muck Movers – they haul horse manure away.

Dutches Farm about 1 ½ miles outside Manhattan – large farm – wants to be developed into Equine Community – Leah has details.

Leah stated she received an official certificate and card due to Coggins test. Premise ID - The information is used to track diseases in the hopes of avoiding epidemics. More information is on the Horse Council web site.



Trails Committee – Barney Weber reported that there are four more miles ready to clear in the spring. She noted that Chautauqua County used grant money to refurbish trails for usage of snowmobiles and horses.

Sleigh Rally is scheduled for the 3rd of February and Catt/Chaut Chapter of Horse Council will run the rally.

4th Annual Spring Roundup will be March 2nd in Sinclairville at the Fire Hall. Contact Leah or Barney for details, also the Horse Council web site.

National Trails Day is 1st Saturday in June

Ride for Pine Hill is June 1st

Need suggestions for winter project to get money for parking lot at Sawmill Run.

Thomas Livak informed group of possible abandoned rail line in Erie County which goes from Orchard Park to West Valley. Attempts are being made to make it into a trail. Tom will keep us posted.

Marketing/Tourism/Website/Brochure Committee – Annie Widger asked that members let her know of missing trails on the map and of any suggestions for the back of the map. Regarding the film, Diana hopes to come out over the holiday and do 3 to 8 interviews. She has the equipment on loan. If there are any special activities happening then, let Annie know and she will schedule with Diana.

Annie announced that she is now the Equine Advocate for the Farm Bureau.

Annie also stated that she would like ideas for winter activities to continue to raise funds for the Wagon Train. Ideas such as sponsored trail ride on the Pat McGee trail, a dance at the Rider's Club on April 26th, auction, tack swap.

Discussion on marketing the Wagon Train Ride. Terry Martin suggested that we attempt to set up on the Bicentennial web site and give people the opportunity to sign up there.

Wagon Train Report – Dolly Little reported on her attendance at various meetings with villages where she had explained what was happening and asked for assistance. All the villages are very excited to be a part of this adventure. Many have offered a field for camping, will serve meals, no resistance at all, each and every village she met with wants to help.

Dolly suggested that it is rapidly approaching the time to form a committee to keep the planning moving forward and to spread the duties of the final details. Suggested areas to have assistance: organizing the towns assistance; fund raising; advertising; entry reservations; supplies needed and more to come as time draws closer. A clean up and lodging committee is also needed. Discussion about a shuttle van to go from center of town to/from camp, etc.

Dolly will meet with any interested people on Tuesday, February 12th at 7 pm at the Municipal Building in Little Valley.

James Isaacson reported that the Grant has been submitted. Contracts to be awarded possibly as early as January. Thank you James!!!

New Business

Terry Martin thanked Leah for being the President of the Catt/Chaut Chapter of the Horse Council. She will now be the Secretary.

James Isaacson told about a program in Cattaraugus County called Leadership Cattaraugus. The purpose of this program is to grow leaders in our County. It meets one day a month and has classes all day. Participants learn from people well positioned in the County. There are some scholarships available. For details see James.

Al Gerstung informed members that when this Committee was formed, it was intended that each person appointed would have a two year term. It is unclear if the legislators will continue the Committee due to their intention was for two years only. With the Bicentennial coming up, they will most likely have us continue. The Secretary was charged to contact members not present and see if they are still interested in being on the Committee. A letter will then be sent to the Legislative body with a request to continue as a Committee, the names of the people not able to continue on the Committee, and names of known people interested in being appointed. This letter needs to be to the Legislators before December 12th as they meet that afternoon.

Al Gerstung informed the Committee that he is stepping down for this year. He wishes to keep in touch but is not able, at this time, to give the time it takes to serve. Thank you Al, you will be missed greatly!

Next Meeting – January 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the County Center, Little Valley, NY.

Adjournment – Motion by Annie Widger seconded by Jim Toner to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Trenchard, Secretary

APPROVED AS CORRECTED JANUARY 17, 2008. Corrections: Page 1, last paragraph first line: official certificate and card is due to Coggins test not participation in the survey. Page 2, first paragraph, second line: grant money was used to refurbish trails for usage of snowmobiles and horses not for grooming of trails. Page 2, under Marketing/Tourism...third paragraph, date of Dance at Riders Club is April 26th not 29th.