

Equine Advisory Committee Meeting

April 17, 2014

Advisory Committee Members Present: Lenny Brainard, Luke Brainard, Holly Parry, Jim Little, Tom Livak, Stacy Riley, Vickie Raecher, Becky Smith

Advisory Committee Members Absent: Amy DeTine, Barnee Weber, Melinda Nichols, Leah Leising, Jim Leising, Ruthe Riehle, Linda Murphy

General Attendance: Crystal Abers, James Isaacson

Chairman Lenny Brainard called meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Approval of minutes:

Holly Parry motioned to approve minutes from March 20 meeting. Luke Brainard seconded motion. Motion carried.

Membership Vacancies:

James Isaacson reported that we have 2 vacancies and encouraged all present to spread the word to anyone who may be interested. All terms expire the end of 2014.

Committee Reports:

Trails - Tom Livak passed around an updated trail map of Allegany State Park. There was discussion on trail placement, the state upgrading trailheads, limited staff for trail maintenance, and that the snowmobile trail to the Casino is not for equestrian use.

Old Business:

Crystal Abers reported that the Farmer/Neighbor dinner was a success. Attendance was up from last year and she'd received a lot of positive feedback from attendees.

New Business:

James Isaacson reported that there will be a Public Open House for the Comprehensive Plan Update on April 29, at the Cutco Theater on JCC Olean Campus. A consultant from Buffalo has been contracted to assist the County with this update to the Comprehensive Plan. Open Houses will also be held May 8, at the King Memorial Library in Machias and May 14 at the County Center in Little Valley. The purpose of this is to prioritize the goals for the future of the County. Since equine is a big part of the County, he encouraged Committee members to attend and voice their opinions.

Crystal Abers said that if this Committee applies for grants for a project and this project is already part of the Comprehensive Plan, it has a much better chance of success.

There was discussion on bike trails at Allegany State Park that will be built to connect all lodging to all services.

There was discussion on possible ways to connect Chautauqua County trails to Cattaraugus County trails.

Stacey Riley reported that Nash Hill Equestrian Center will be hosting a Ranch Horse Pleasure Clinic, 4H Shows, AQHA Horse Challenge, Yankee Reining Clinic and a Brandi Lyons Clinic.

Lenny Brainard reported that Leon will be holding Pioneer Day on July 26 and that there will be a Wagon Train July 24 through 26. The wagons will have a base camp at the Leon Fire Department and they will travel in loops each day

ending back at base camp. Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the Fire Department and lunches will be available through Amish hosts. Reservations are due by July 14 for anyone who wants to take part.

Holly Parry feels this Committee isn't accomplishing anything by meeting so often and she would like to see meetings twice a year. She feels we may be able to find more interested people to be members if meetings were not so often.

Tom Livak suggested Facebook may be a helpful tool to consider for communication purposes. Crystal Abers suggested using the Enchanted Mountains Facebook page instead of creating another page.

Lenny Brainard said using Facebook would be another avenue for publicizing classes being sponsored by the Horseman's Association.

Crystal Abers reiterated the history of the Equine Committee. This Committee was formed to advise the Legislature on behalf of the equine businesses within the county. The Cattaraugus County Horseman's Association was designed to handle the funding set aside for the Bicentennial Wagon Train. There was discussion about different promotions that had been developed for equestrian businesses.

Holly Parry reported that the most recent classes sponsored by the Horseman's Association had been cancelled. People want a "hands on" experience which could not be done at previous venues. The Crosspatch has offered to host classes this fall. Classes will be held Saturday mornings, September 27, October 11 and October 25. She feels that because the Association is a non-profit organization, she can get all sorts of free advertising for these classes.

Crystal Abers gave an update on the Hops seminar. She asked if we could partner with the Extension for classes.

Next Meeting: October 16th at 7pm, County Center, Little Valley.

Vicky Raecher motioned to adjourn at 8:05. Luke Brainard seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Smith.