

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
May 15, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President Stan Vonasek.

Board Members

Present: Stan Vonasek, Ken Horeis, Tami Stevens, Pam Nebel, Julie Warrington, George Parris, Wendy Lippincott, Cyndi Vollmer

Absent: Dr. Christina Dayton

Secretary's Report (Pam Nebel): April Minutes are available on the DEC website at www.delawareequinecouncil.org and on the back table.

Treasurer's Report: (Tami Stevens)

Starting balance as of 3/20/17: **\$31,047.46**

Deposits: \$765.00 (dues, polo shirt sale, Poker Run fees/proceeds)

Deductions: \$658.77 (reimbursements to Pam for folders, ink, pens, PO box rental, refreshments for 4/17 meeting. Goetz Insurors insurance premium, Paypal fees)

Ending balance as of 5/15/17: **\$31,153.69**

George Parris motioned to pay all bills. Dan Watson seconded and motion was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEC Yearly Audit (Stan): Easiest and quickest audit ever and balanced to the penny.

Newsletter (Wendy): May/June newsletters are on the back table. Please take some with you and distribute them to various businesses in your area. Ready to work on the July/August newsletter. Please give Wendy articles as she needs help with filling the newsletter with interesting information.

TEC/DEC Poker Run (Julie): With the weather being so questionable on Saturday, April 22, with spritzing rain, Sunday, April 23 still turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. The committee was on the fence with whether to cancel and reschedule but took a chance and went forward with the event. We had approx. 26 riders. No doubt that the rainy forecast held some people back, but those who came had a great time and loved the new obstacles. The Chinese auction was a great success and the 50/50 was successful too. The gross profit was \$740. After expenses and dividing the profit between TEC and DEC, each organization received \$282. Some remarked that a lot of work goes into coordination of this shared event with such a small monetary return. We need to address whether we want to continue to share the event with TEC, or go solo. The TEC location is perfect and it would be challenging to find another location but it could be done.

Julie thanked all the DEC volunteers that worked tirelessly to help make this a successful event. We will address the issue of continuing the event at a later date.

Sonny Garguilo Clinic (Pam): Deadline for sign up extended to May 19. Will see what happens at that point in time. Still do not have enough people to move forward with the clinic.

Southern States POP (Stan): Just a reminder to collect your proof of purchase seals to bring to the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Equisure Insurance (Stan): Stan reminded members that you can still get a one million dollar policy through Equisure anytime throughout the year. Let him know if you are interested in acquiring this excellent policy. It is a calendar year policy (January – December).

Cape Henlopen Trails Committee (Stan): Nothing to add any different than stated in April Minutes. Stan and Lona Crist are DEC representatives that will attend any meetings scheduled.

License Plates (Stan/Julie): Julie reported that the artist she has contacted is now ready to put together some designs and should be able to provide them by July.

NEW BUSINESS

DEC 501 (c) (3) (Wayne/Stan): Wayne, Pam and Stan met with DEC's accountant to discuss the issue of DEC becoming a 501 (c) (3) organization. There is a lot of work and dollars involved in implementing this effort. We cannot utilize the inexpensive EZ Form like we did for the Foundation. It would cost \$845 to initiate the effort, plus the mission statement and by-laws would have to be changed to meet the criteria of one of the nine options of 501 (c) (3) status. This work would need to be prepared by an attorney (another cost). There is a long, multi-page form to be filled out. The accountant informed us that DEC would have to be extremely cautious with the monies that we would possibly donate to any non-501 (c) (3) organizations. The majority of our donations would have to be to organizations with a 501 (c) (3) status. Grants can be prepared and submitted as a 501 (c) (3), but we would have to clearly explain what we would be using that particular grant request for. It was mentioned that we had applied for a grant years ago, but because we were a 501 (c) (5) we were rejected. The question came up as to what would be the benefit of DEC changing their status. Do we think people will start donating to DEC just because of a status change? People want to know where their money is going and what exactly it will be used for. The DEC Foundation has loyal supporters that continue year after year donating to the scholarship program. Who would be donating to DEC and what for? These are just some of the questions. Stan will check with other 501 (c) (3) state horse councils to see what they do to qualify for that status. The issue is tabled for now.

Scholarships (Wayne): It was discussed at the recent board meeting whether to increase the number of \$1,000 scholarships awarded or to increase the dollar amount of the scholarship and award less scholarships. Some thoughts tonight were to increase the dollar amount to either \$1500 or \$2000. Stan said we have time to think about it and we can discuss later.

Member Appreciation Day (Stan): Stan reported that he has booked Redden and Shorty for our event. Will include again on the July agenda to discuss further details.

November Elections (Stan): Stan will not be running for another term as President. Please put your feelers out for anyone who might be interested in becoming the new President. Wendy will put a blurb in the upcoming newsletter looking for expressions of interest. Tami Stevens has agreed to run again for the Treasurer position. She said if anyone else is interested, that's fine too.

Directory Chair (Ken): Ken reported that after three years of preparing the Directory, he will be stepping down from that responsibility. Stan stated that it's a huge endeavor and needs to be more than one person. We are looking for a Directory committee to be formed to take on the responsibility. Ken has all of the information and reference material from the past three years and will be happy to pass it on to the committee. He reiterated that there is constant follow-up necessary with businesses and people who want to advertise. One phone call doesn't do it. You have to make continuous reminder calls. This is a time-consuming effort and it's imperative that you are committed in order to have a quality product.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ken reported that he has paperwork regarding the Nutrient Management Plan specifics that anyone can have. He will be happy to email the information to anyone who wants a copy. Connie Lundquist requested a copy be sent to her via regular mail as she does not have email. She plans to share it with the AMBA group.

Motion to adjourn was made by Connie Lundquist and seconded by Tami Stevens

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Next Meeting – July 17, 2017 at the Harrington Fire Hall conference room.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel