

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
July 17, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Stan Vonasek.

Board Members

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

Absent: Dr. Christina Dayton, George Parris

Secretary's Report (Pam Nebel): May 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 5/15/17: \$31,153.69

Deposits: None

Deductions: \$624.00 (DE Appy Youth Assoc sponsorship, Eva Wiley college fund, Julie Warrington for Poker Run, AHC welcome reception donation)

Ending balance as of 6/19/17: \$30,529.69

Starting Balance as of 6/19/17: \$30,529.69

Deposits: \$145 (membership dues)

Deductions: \$414.72 (Joyce Bell for Poker Run, Mary Bashtarz for Poker Run, Pam Nebel for newsletter postage, TEC Poker Run proceeds)

Ending Balance as of 7/17/17: \$30,259.97

Ken motioned to pay all bills. Wayne seconded and motion was passed.

NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Noseworthy

Holly Noseworth

Ruth and Holly live in Felton and have two trail horses. They look forward to participating in Delaware Equine Council events. Welcome aboard!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter (Wendy Lippincott) – Working on the August/September edition. Seriously need people to prepare articles for submission. Stan suggested doing the newsletter on a quarterly basis instead of bi-monthly. Pam made a motion to do quarterly newsletter beginning January 1, 2018. Wayne seconded and motion was passed.

SS POP Coupons (Marie/Stan) – Received a check for \$125. Keep bringing in the Proof of Purchase seals and the checks will keep rolling in. Thanks to everyone who remembers to bring theirs in.

OLD BUSINESS

Equisure Insurance (Stan) – Stan reminded everyone that the insurance is based on calendar year. This is insurance over and above your own homeowners insurance. If you are interested in purchasing the insurance, see Stan. Stan provided written information to Connie regarding the insurance.

American Horse Council Survey (Stan) – The survey is for the state horse industry nationwide. Only takes a few minutes to fill out. Eighteen responses from DE have been submitted to date. Stan can email or mail out survey to anyone interested. Survey was sent via email along with June/July newsletter to members. Be sure to take a few minutes to fill this out. Deadline was July 17 but has been extended to August 18.

American Horse Council Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) Info (Stan) – Conference was held in June. AHC remains neutral on horse slaughter.

3,116 adopted/sold in 2016. Adoptions have declined from 7,800 in 2002.

Severe management challenges exist. 25,000 WHBs lived on public lands in 1971. In 2017 there are 73,000 WHBs living on public land. Excessive off-range costs have hindered the Bureau of Land Management's ability to effectively manage population growth. On-range population is nearly three times the target population level and it continues to rise.

The existing situation is not sustainable. There is currently no ready solution. The President's FY18 budget proposal includes a request to remove the rider prohibiting unrestricted sale and euthanasia of excess animals as provided for in the WH&B Act. The BLM will continue to look for creative ways to find new homes for excess animals, including forging effective partnerships for training animals; development and application of fertility control methods, and collaborate with Congress and stakeholders.

Basic message here is: 1) WHB program is not sustainable in the present state, 2) On-range population growing uncontrolled, 3) No fertility control methods available that are affordable, easily applied and highly effective, and 4) off range holding is too expensive with 50,000 animals in holding at cost of nearly \$50 million.

Cape Henlopen Trails (Stan): Stan attended the meeting in June. There are four miles of equine trails at Henlopen. There are 21.2 miles accessible for pedestrians and bikes. The plan is to extend the 21.2 miles to 33 miles with caveats for percentage of pedestrian only access. Stan suggested at the meeting that there be a loop for equestrians so that they may use part of the paved trail as an avenue back to their starting point. DNREC was present too and discussed erosion, dune damage and what is acceptable. They do not want any riders on the paved trails at this point.

Stan mentioned to Grant Melville (new park manager), that DEC had requested to do a fundraiser in 2015 but was told that an organizational fundraiser would need a permit, which would cost between \$600 and \$800 (even for non-profit organizations). Stan provided all DEC's paperwork regarding this request. He also asked about the possibility of allowing horse and

carriages on the paved trails between November 1 and April 30, which is the same time that riding on the beach is allowed. More information to come on this issue.

Delaware State Fair 4H Awards – Ken volunteered to be DEC’s representative for this event scheduled on Saturday, July 29. DEC provides Grand Champion Awards thru their \$250 donation to the 4H.

DEC Liability Insurance (Stan) – We recently changed from Farm Family Insurance to Goetz Insurance due to the multiple coverage we receive for our yearly events and meetings. Farm Family was \$500 per year and only covered ten DEC meetings. Goetz price is \$427 and covers our ten meetings and three horse related events. More for less, so all is good

NEW BUSINESS

Member Appreciation Day (Stan) – This year’s event will be held on Sunday, September 24 at Redden Headquarters. Ride out at 10am. Catered lunch served at 12 noon, prepared by Shorty’s catering. Members are free and non-members get a \$5 discount off new membership. Individual \$15, Organizational \$20 or Commercial \$30. This is our 5th year with four very successful years preceding us. Hope to see you all there. Ride, drive or just sit and eat! Wendy is preparing a flyer to include with the Aug/Sept newsletter coming out August 1.

Conservation Pass (Stan) – A pass is required effective July 1, 2017, to park vehicles at State Wildlife areas. Cost is \$32.50 per year for DE residents. A three-day pass for three consecutive days is \$10. For out-of-state vehicles the annual pass is \$65 and the three-day pass is \$20. The passes may be purchased on-line at Delaware Licenses

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/services/pages/lic-perm-reg.aspx

For more information about purchasing a pass and a complete list of locations requiring passes, contact DNREC’s Recreational Licensing Office at 302-739-9918.

Riding Jester Tract (Stan) – Parking lot continues to be closed leaving equestrians unable to ride the tract. Stan wrote to the State Forrester previously to see if anything could be done for fall and winter riding season. No luck so far. Stan will follow up.

Nominating Committee (Stan) – Stan asked for volunteers for the nominating committee and appointed Pam Nebel and Wendy Lippincott for this November’s elections. Positions available are as follows:

- President (two-year term)
- Treasurer (two-year term)
- 2 Directors (three-year term)
- 1 Director (1-year term)

Please let Pam or Wendy know if you would like to be considered for a position or would like to nominate someone.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fundraising (Grace Poe) - Julie Warrington mentioned that Grace Poe had approached her with an idea for fundraising and gave the floor to Grace to elaborate. Grace suggested doing a Paint Night since they are highly successful. \$15 is required for materials provided by Grace, and DEC could put their own per person price on the event. Just need a location. Issue will be tabled for a fall possibility.

Motion to adjourn was made by Wayne Nebel and seconded by Connie Lundquist.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Next Meeting – August 21, 2017 at the Harrington Fire Hall conference room.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel.