

**DEC General Meeting 7pm
Monday, February 20, 2023**

- I. Call to Order – Ken Horeis called the meeting to order
 - A. Stan Vonasek led the Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. The minutes from January’s meeting were approved and sited that they are available on the website

- II. Treasurer’s Report- Kaitie Spencer
 - A. Beginning Balance- \$36,963.32
 - B. Deposits-\$760.73
 - C. Expenses-\$1,562.05
 - D. Ending Balance- \$36,162.00
 - E. Motion to accept the report by Donna Hurst, 2nd by Pam Nebel, vote: passed

- III. Since there were a lot of new faces, Ken started off by having everyone introduce themselves and where they’re from

- IV. Speakers Dr. Michelle Egli of Delmarva Equine and JoAnn Bayshore of Fairhill Rescue
 - A. Topic- History of and need for a Large Animal Rescue unit for lower Kent and all of Sussex Counties
 - B. The current trailer owned by the state has been turned over to the Hartly Fire Department for dispatching throughout the state.
 1. While New Castle can utilize the Fairhill rescue, this leaves all of Kent and Sussex Counties handled out of Hartly.
 - a. Dr. Egli expressed that if a downed horse is in Millsboro or Selbyville, the response time can be up to 3 hours or more and that can mean death to a horse
 - b. Even southern Kent County can take too long for a response
 - c. The Hartly Fire Department has done a great job with the responses they have provided and will continue to.
 - C. Spearhead a FUNDRAISING Campaign to raise at least \$15,000 to supply the unit with the necessary minimum equipment needed to respond to large animal emergencies.
 1. Contact all Sussex County Fire Departments to see who is best able to house the equipment and respond to large animal emergencies
 2. Write Grants for fundraising
 3. Contact Department of Ag for possible monies
 4. Contact Dave Wilson for advice with State monies
 5. Contact all equine groups for donations
 6. Sandy Tucker from ESWHSA made several good suggestions
 - a. Eastern Maryland horse owners may be interested in donating
 - b. Write a news story to promote the fundraiser
 - c. Make a flyer
 7. Stan Vonasek said, “This is an effort that the Delaware Equine Council can’t turn down”. He made a motion that DEC will spearhead the fundraising campaign, Dave Hobday 2nd the motion-Vote: unanimous, passed

- V. Old Business
 - A. Delmarva Driving Club Donation request

1. Julie Warrington motioned to donate \$250 toward the Driving Club's Show in May, Donna Hurst 2nd the motion, Vote: all in favor, passed
- B. Personal Liability Insurance-Stan Vonasek
 1. Stan reviewed the coverage of 1 Million for \$25 for individual or \$50 for family per year starting in January for a calendar year.
- C. Directory-Ken Horeis
 1. Ken posed some concern as to whether the Directory should continue being published
 2. Tabled until the next meeting
- D. Firetower Road Crossing -Ken Horeis
 1. At the last meeting Holly Vigilante and members of her boarding barn had experienced a very close call with a motorist while crossing Firetower Rd. at the C & R Center.
 2. Ken has made several calls to representatives to see about:
 - a. Culvert over the ditch
 - b. Signage slowing traffic for horse crossing
- E. DEC Youth-Amy Dietz
 1. DECY had their first Bake Sale at Coastal Equine to raise money to donate to Omega Horse Rescue.
 - a. Several of the youth have been following horses saved from New Holland, retrained and offered for adoption
 - b. They raised \$166.00 that day and brought goodies to the meeting which were sold
 2. Ken also gave Amy high praise for getting the Youth group up and growing!

VI. New Business

- A. White Clay Creek State Park-Ken Horeis/Mary Everhart
 1. In Mary's absence, Ken presented the issue
 - a. Mary is on the Park's Advisory Council
 - b. It has come up that a pond that was originally installed by a DuPont whose property bordered the park for his viewing pleasure has filled in due to lack of maintenance and a deteriorating dam
 - c. Some on the committee including the UAW and AFLCIO want to spend 2 Million in State funds to fix the pond and dam
 - d. Mary and others have suggested an environmental study
 2. Additional updates will be provided as available
- B. Maryland Horse Council information requested-Ken Horeis
 1. Jane Seigler from MD council wondered about Delaware's new regulation inspecting horses coming across state lines
 2. Ken contacted the Dept. of Ag for clarification
 - a. This regulation is only in case of an emergency outbreak of a contagious disease
- C. SDTR Sponsorship Request-Stan Vonasek

1. SDTR is having their 2nd Annual "Derby Day" event on May 6th to raise money for the therapeutic riding facility
2. They are requesting a donation
3. Vote on this request at the next meeting in March

VII. Motion to adjourn made by Pam Nebel, 2nd by Dave Hobday- approved

- A. Next meeting is Monday, March 20, 2023, at Apex at 7pm with Speaker Vicki Trainor of Search and Rescue