

Connecticut Equine Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2010

Attending:

Leslie Lewis, Laurie Giannotti, Judy Beliveau, Amy Stegall, Diane Ciano, Meg Sautter, Ruth Beardsley.

Call To Order:

The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin, CT. Meeting called to order at 6:24PM.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Ruth Beardsley moved to pass, Meg Sautter seconded, so voted.

1) Update on Council Appointments:

Diane Ciano was granted her official appointment to the EAC. Mr. William MacLaren formally resigned from EAC.

2) EAC Logo:

Diane Ciano presented logo for discussion. Leslie will submit her daughter's artwork for the next meeting.

3) EAC Mailing Address:

The discussion of an official mailing address was also discussed and finally decided that it will be; EAC P.O. Box 57 Durham, CT. 06422-0057, and will be used with the EAC letterhead layout.

4) EAC Email Address:

CHC Member Daisy Gmitter will be asked to make an email address for EAC's use.

5) Website Updates:

DEP will be hosting a page submitted by Diane Ciano. A photo gallery was also mentioned and a photo with Rep. Hovey and her horse would likely be submitted for the page.

Laurie Giannotti will review previously emailed information that Diane had sent her for the DEP page. Should any questions comments or concerns appear Laurie will contact Diane.

6) Old Business:

- RTA Grant Contract for Lost Silvermine Horse Camp renovation projects were reviewed and signed by Amy Stegall.
- 1st Qtr. Reports – for RTA grant. Laurie suggested that Diane submit the report regarding the Silvermine Horse Camp project even if no work has been performed as of yet.
- Diane Ciano will be in contact with DEP Regional Supervisor – Scott Dawley regarding the following items;
 - Natchaug SF -
 - Picnic tables and Kiosk installation
 - Goodwin SF

- Friends of Goodwin has a National Trails Day Event and to see if the VHP can have a 'Meet and Greet' there for representation.
- State Forest Maps;
 - Tom Nozzle was reported to be finishing up Shenipsit maps at this time.
 - He has been in contact with Laurie Giannotti with regular updates on where he is in the process and what maps he plans on updating next.

7) New Business:

- Laurie Giannotti will be preparing a document for distribution throughout all State Parks and State Forests as well as the CHC Membership Newsletter, and town newspapers like 'The Voices' on a "Trail Rules" and etiquette.
- Federal designated 'National Scenic Trail' – Contact Claire Cane
 - Diane will be in contact with Claire regarding the 'trails stewardship' information on which sections of the trail is used by equestrians. CHC submitted an equestrian trail evaluation of the system to the National Park Service as part of the study. NPS should have this book of evaluations or it may have been given to CFPA.
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- Shelton Lakes: Diane will be in contact with Teresa and Terry Gallagher, contact for the Shelton Lakes Trail Association regarding the 'load barring capacity for safe horse and rider passage on the bridges throughout the trail system.
- Pawcatuck resident complaint received: Diane received a complaint regarding 'un-horseman-like' behavior from a horse and rider team when the woman was walking at Bluff Point SP. Diane said she would be in contact with the woman and find out more information regarding the incident in question.
- Event at Wadsworth Falls: VHP Coordinator, Debbie Sommers was contacted by DEP Supervisor, Alex Sokolow about a 'horse ride' fund-raiser for a school regarding manure complaints. It was unclear as to whether this was during or after the event and if it was on the trails or in the parking lot. Suggestions were brought to the table regarding how horse owners and event coordinators can prevent such complaints in the future by possibly enlisting trail spotters that will 'muck' the trails clean once the last horse and rider teams have returned and to clean up anything left in the parking area.
- Amy Stegall discussed the 'Vulnerable User Group Bill' – currently on the legislative floor. It include verbiage that would have ATV users that incur damage to have penalties of \$93.00 – to - \$186.00 per offence.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 @ 6:00PM

Respectfully Submitted By: Judy Beliveau, Acting Recording Secretary – June 9, 2010