

**Minutes of Meeting for
Fort Harrod Backcountry Horseman
February 5, 2009
Called to order at 7:15PM**

Introduction of special guest, Alison Bullock who is the project manager of Eagles Nest in that she is a program coordinator through the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Introduction of group to Ms. Bullock.

Roll call of directors: Emily Dennis, Pat Warner, Dayna Nelson, Essie Rogers, Greg Mason, David Rule, Bob Cairn, Dennis Blackburn with Carol Conover excused.

Review of Minutes for December 4th and January 8th reviewed with a motion to approve amended minutes by David Rule and a second by Dennis Blackburn with all in agreement.

Review of Board of Directors Meeting January 17th with a motion to approve by Dennis Blackburn and second by Greg Mason and all agreed.

Financial report for January/February 2009 read by Pat Warner with a motion to approve by Bob Cairn and second by Dayna Nelson.

Report from Shaker Village Trail Boss Bob Cairn on January 17th: crew removed downed trees from a section of Shawnee Trail and barbed wire felt to be too close to heavily used trail. Plans for further clearings are forthcoming. Woodford Hounds plan a clearing day at Shaker Village this Saturday the 7th and all are welcome. Trails at Shaker will be closed Monday through Friday, February 16-17 for controlled burn in preparation for planting of native grasses.

Release forms now available and to be used for all events whether individual or group. Nicole Roca to be responsible having forms signed for upcoming Woodford Hounds Shaker Village clean-up day.

Report from Eagles Nest trail boss Dennis Blackburn: Due to severe weather and downed trees, tire removal will be re-scheduled possibly to March. The power company has been able to restore power to the area. Brian Rogers to check his schedule in that Brian and his oxen team will be needed for this event.

Report from John Bates regarding the Public Land Committee: The Salt River project concerning Mercer County will start with research into possible use of old road beds. Cynn timer Bates has agreed to check records in Mercer County with Cory Bloyd and Dennis Blackburn searching UofK Geo survey maps.

John also gave an update regarding maps of Eagles Nest area that at present are available in 2 versions one with numbers the other with use of color. Before proceeding in naming/numbering these trails the wishes of the Conover's will be of most importance with also trying to be clear enough for others to follow. Cost of labeling the trails and printing the maps are an issue. Dennis Blackburn has found a stamped aluminum plate for \$1.37 each. Office Max will give KHC members discounts on printing. Alison Bullock suggests marking exit route to keep those not familiar with Eagles Nest from getting lost and to keep a supply of maps at one location such as the Pavilion. Dayna Nelson and Greg Mason suggest one color to mark all trails returning to the Pavilion with arrow to point the way. Bob Cairns request that sliders be marked on the maps. Dennis Blackburn mentions having all connectors' one color and there was also discussion in use of mile markers and numbering of junctions only. Using spray paint and stake makers to prevent damage to trees and ease of change was suggested by Carla Perry. Allison reminded all that it takes time to develop usable mapping systems and that later on we may want to include GPS signage. All agreed that next step was for John, Dennis and Greg to meet with Carol and Michael Conover about mapping and how they would like us to proceed.

Dayna Nelson reports that the tack sale was canceled due to the weather and a new date has not yet been decided. Also March 28th from 10AM to 3PM Spokes and Spurs will host 'Introduction to Driving Day'. This will be hands on instruction and is free but a donation is appreciated. Dayna also reviewed the available information on other land trust situations to evaluate possible benefit in development of other non-traditional resources here in Mercer County such as Eagles Nest. Dayna reported that in review of available literature the initial Corp

Trust land was drive-through only and that Lalla Lake was not open to the public and used by the University of Tennessee for research in protection of a water shed. Trails available were walking only. Allison Bullock included that Lalla Lake was an example of a donation by a private family with a long term goal of turning the property over to the public, there in a comparison to Eagles Nest. There is a nearby Equestrian use area so this has not been developed at Lalla Lake. In that this is a non-traditional land trust situation copies of the information will be given to the Conover's by Emily Dennis.

Present's report by Emily Dennis: Reminder that the next regular meeting of the FHBCH will to March the 5th and that the 4th annual Trail and Summit meeting hosted by TREK, KHC, and KEEP will be April 3-5 at Dale Hollow State Park. Report regarding FHBCH's application for affiliation with BCHA has been placed on hold at the request of the BOD until tax status of BCHA is approved for 501c3 status. At present BCHA are 501c4 status and according to IRS all groups affiliated with a national group are of the same tax status. Emily will complete FHBCH's 501c3 paperwork by our annual meeting date. There was been an invitation by Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) to join as an Equestrian Partner. The Equestrian Partners program educates horseman across the country about the "importance of land to our equine heritage, and to assist them in conserving it" through informational conference calls and networking opportunities.

Dennis Blackburn request that a reply to the invitation to join ELCR as an Equestrian Partner be tabled until our next meeting. It is hoped that Cynthia Higgs, Equestrian Partners Coordinator will be available for that meeting. ELCR is interested in developments at Eagles Nest with Deb Balliet working with Carol and Michael Conover on estates planning.

The FHBCH 1st annual meeting will be June 6th, 2009 from 9AM to 12Noon at the Extension Office. This date is also part of the Fort Harrod Beef Festival weekend and National Trails Day. We will start the day with breakfast followed by general meeting and ending with an educational opportunity. Voting on a BOD position will be part of the meeting. Carla Perry has agreed to head the committee for planning our annual meeting with assist from Beth Glaesser and Melissa McGuire. Carla request an Email list of members and has some initial suggestions on persons

available to give an educational in-service on Balance While Horseback Riding or a Natural Hoof Trimming lesion. Other suggestions are requested.

Fort Harrod Beef Festival Co-Chairman LeMayne Ellis has invited FHBCH to participate with the next meeting to plan activities on 2/26 @ 6:30 PM food will be provided but RSVP must be before 2/25.

Educational Session by Alison Bullock, National Park Services, Rivers Trails Conversation Assistance Program Coordinator is here to offer technical support to FRBCH in our efforts to assist with persevering Eagles Nest. Eagles Nest is a huge project in our backyard that can be used as a national model. Areas that RTCA can be of help are with organizational development, technical support with map making, grant writing, trail development, web site development, power point presentations as well as many other aspects of this group's needs. There is a place at the table for everyone no matter what your area of expertise. Alison encourages this group to get out in the community and talk about FHBCH.

The ELCR next conference call will be 2/23 @ 5PM at the Extension Office Emily Dennis and Carla Perry plan on participating.

Mike Ritter trail specialist to instruct on multi use trails August 5-10, sponsored by KHC. At this time the only Mike Ritter trained specialist in this area is Dennis Blackburn. Nicole Roca voiced it would be good publicity for FHBCH to promote Dennis however Essie Rogers reminded that the only way this could be done was as a partnership between FHBCH and KHC.

Dennis Blackburn motioned for adjournment at 9PM with David Rule as second and all in agreement.

Submitted By Pat Warner Secretary.