

**Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen
General Membership meeting minutes
October 1 2009**

Meeting called to order by President Emily Dennis at 7:07pm.

Board of Directors in attendance: Emily Dennis, Gregg Mason, Dave Rule, Carla Perry, Bob Cairns, Carol Conover, John Bates, Pat Warner.

The May 5, 2009 general membership meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Dave Rule made a motion to approve these minutes. Carol Conover seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The May 16, 2009 general membership meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Dave Rule made a motion to approve the minutes. Carol Conover seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The September 9, 2009 Board of Directors meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Dave Rule made a motion to approve the minutes. Gregg Mason seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Emily Dennis mentioned one particular item from the September 9 Board meeting, that the Board has proposed we change our by-laws to have monthly general membership meetings year round. This by-laws amendment will be voted on at our next annual meeting.

Pat presented a current financial report, showing a starting balance of \$1,083.03, with no expenses, and \$3,678.50 in receipts, for an ending balance of \$4,761.53. Carla Perry made a motion to approve the financial report. Bob Cairns seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Emily Dennis thanked Carol Conover, on behalf of the organization, for recommending the organization for a Rowland Family Charitable Fund grant in the amount of \$500.00, which we received. Dennis also reported that the organization was awarded a \$3000.00 STEP Program Grant, sponsored by Tractor Supply and AQHA, for the improvement of stream crossings at Eagles Nest. The STEP Program administrators sent an approval letter to Treasurer Pat Warner informing FHBCH that we received the grant. This project is scheduled to begin this fall and be completed by next spring. Funds can be spent for materials and equipment rental. We will need to keep record of our volunteer hours, any press releases, and receipts to report back to the AQHA.

Dennis Blackburn gave an Eagles Nest Trail Boss report. There have been no work days

recently. Several tree tops which broke off during last winter's ice storm are now starting to fall. These trees will need to be cleared as they fall and cover the trails. We also need to set more of the picnic tables around the property. The areas where we will place the picnic tables will need to be hardened. Blackburn reports that he will be arranging a work day soon, now that cool weather is here.

Bob provided a Shaker Village Trail Boss report. Everything is in good order. Bob Cairns reports that several riders scout the trail then report to him when something is blocking any part of the Shawnee Run Trail, at which time he then organizes a small group to clear the blockage.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office informed Emily Dennis that the Eagles Nest Farm Conservation Report is complete. According to the report, there is one "blue line" creek on the Eagles Nest property that will take special consideration for the stream crossings project. Carol Conover stated this is Hayden Creek, and in general it has a good rocky bottom so it should not require extensive changes. Michael Conover, Carol Conover, and Dennis Blackburn will review the report and have further discussions with NRCS as the report relates to or affects the STEP stream crossings project.

Bob Cairns stated that he provided Michael Conover some of the information he obtained from his recent Master Trail Builder class pertaining to stream crossings. Bob Cairns and Carol Conover also suggested that we take good before, during, and after photos of our stream crossing work. This will be excellent visual documentation of our work.

Gregg Mason suggested that we have a "trail blitz" weekend, and we should make sure its well advertised including a prominent announcement at Eagles Nest. The goal is to inform Eagles Nest riders who are not FH BCH members about the work day, and give them the opportunity to join with us for the work that needs to be done.

At the September Board meeting, the Board decided to expand the Eagles Nest Trail Boss to 4 positions. All 4 Trail Bosses will report to Michael and Carol Conover. Michael and Carol Conover will set priorities for the work to be done. There was a lengthy discussion about this decision to expand the Trail Boss positions. Several alternate solutions were suggested. Dennis Blackburn suggested that we have 1 Trail Boss and 3 assistants. Bob Cairns suggested that Michael and Carol Conover be the Trail Bosses and we have 4 assistants reporting to them. Dave Rule suggested we stay with the original structure approved by the Board in September. Brian Rogers also suggested 1 Trail Boss and 3 assistants. Gregg Mason asked if we have 1 Trail Boss, who cannot be reached, then what? The suggestion is for Carol Conover to have all 4 names and telephone numbers, and if the Trail Boss cannot be reached then she can call the assistants. After the discussion, it seemed that the majority of members present

considered the 1 Trail Boss with 3 assistants the best option. John Bates made a motion to change the Board decision and instead have 1 Trail Boss with 3 assistants. Brian Rogers seconded the motion. During the discussion of the motion the question was raised about whether it is permissible for the general membership to override a Board directive. Pat Warner provided a copy of our current by-laws and Emily Dennis read the pertinent sections to the group. A decision was made that the Board must change their directive, and then the new proposal can be voted on by the general membership. So John Bates withdrew his motion.

During this discussion, we also asked for nomination for the new Trail Boss or assistant Trail Boss positions. Carol Conover nominated Dave Rule. Dave Rule declined the nomination, stating he thought it would be good if the new positions were not filled with Board members and therefore give others the opportunity to serve. Dennis Blackburn nominated Brian Rogers, who accepted. Carla Perry nominated Michael Gillespie, who accepted. Dennis Blackburn agreed to be nominated as well.

Thomas Demond made a motion to send this issue back to the Board for further consideration. Dave Rule seconded the motion. During the discussion of this motion Brian Rogers suggested that we amend the motion to include the 3 names of people willing to serve as Trail Bosses and/or assistants, and that we will seek another volunteer at our next membership meeting. Gregg Mason seconded the amendment. The amendment was added to the motion. The motion carried.

Emily Dennis asked for 3 volunteers to serve on a membership committee. Pat Warner asked that we make January 1 our membership renewal date with no exceptions. Our current guideline is members who join after October 1 of the current year will be paid members for the next year as well. It was decided this issue will be addressed by the membership committee. Thomas Demond, Tom Herndon, Beth Glaesser volunteered to be on the membership committee. Thomas Demond agreed to be the committee chairperson.

Due to the length of our meeting, it was agreed that we postpone discussion on the annual meeting plans until our next membership meeting in November.

Thomas Demond was our guest speaker. Demond gave us an update on the progress of the World Equestrian Games to be held in Lexington KY next Fall. This is an important opportunity for all equestrians in the state of Kentucky and Demond has been working diligently to make sure Kentuckians are aware of this.

Emily Dennis mentioned that she talked with Jim Rogan about the endurance ride at Shakertown this November 21st. Rogan would like to have 10 volunteers to help with the check stations and general duties. Lunch will be provided for the volunteers. 5

volunteers will work in the morning, and 5 will work in the afternoon. John agreed to coordinate our volunteer effort for this event. John asked for volunteers. The following people volunteered for the morning work session: Melissa McGuire, Pat Warner, Cynn timer Bates, Pat Blackburn, and Carla Perry. The following people volunteered for the afternoon work session: Gregg Mason, Debbie Mason, Brian Rogers, Michael Gillespie, and Bob Cairns.

Carla Perry made a motion that we adjourn. Pat Warner seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

John Bates, Secretary

Approved: 11/05/2009
