

## **Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen**

### **General Membership meeting minutes**

**November 5 2009**

Meeting called to order by President Emily Dennis at 7:00pm.

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

The October 1 general membership meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Carla Perry made a motion to approve these minutes. Beth Glaesser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

John gave a brief discussion of the state organization committee and their work to create the proposed by-laws of a new state BCH organization. Emily Dennis provided these bylaws for review to all FHBCH members in an email earlier in the week. Emily asked that all members review the proposed state organization by-laws, and we will discuss them at a future general membership meeting.

Thomas Demond, membership committee chairperson, reported that he has placed all membership information in a searchable database. The membership committee will have a meeting following the general membership meeting. We currently have 74 entries in our database, 64 of which are current dues paying members. This represents 50 memberships, with several of them being family memberships. Thomas volunteered to create an FHBCH FaceBook page. Dayna Nelson asked if someone joins between now and the end of the year will their membership count for next year. The answer is yes. Emily stated that it will benefit us if we consider our 2009 membership closed, and any new members between now and the end of the year will become official members as of January 1, 2010.

Emily Dennis made note of our by-laws which state that to be eligible to vote at our annual meeting requires a person to be a dues paid member at least 45 days prior to the annual meeting to be eligible to vote. This means that the annual meeting must be later than February 15. Dayna Nelson suggested that we move our annual meeting date to

March 4. John Bates mentioned if we move the annual meeting to the last two weeks of March that will give members 3 months to join ( December, January, and February) and be eligible to vote at the annual meeting. Emily pointed out that any date in late March will likely conflict with other activities currently planned, such as our Spring tune-up and Coggins clinic. Linda Mueller suggested we have our annual meeting on a Saturday. Carla Perry made a motion that we hold our annual meeting on Saturday March 6, with the meeting agenda to be set by the annual meeting committee. Gregg Mason seconded the motion. During discussion, Tom Herndon asked if we could combine our March general membership meeting with our annual meeting on Saturday March 6. Emily mentioned that our by-laws require us to have our monthly general membership meetings on the first Thursday of each month. The general membership meeting will be held on Thursday March 4. The motion to hold the annual meeting on Saturday, March 6 carried.

Thomas Demond made a motion that we postpone discussion of the annual meeting committee until the December meeting. Tom Herndon seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion carried.

Emily Dennis volunteered to serve on the nominating committee, and asked for other volunteers. After a brief discussion, Thomas Demond made a motion that we postpone further discussion on forming the nominating committee until our December meeting. Dayna Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Regarding Eagles Nest, Carol Conover reported that the trails are very muddy right now due to the rainy weather. Carol also reported that Brad Rogers and his son-in-law have volunteered to operate a Bobcat when we need them to help with trail renovations. Pat Warner has a group of trail riders that want to clear the “pink” trails. The “pink” trails are the trails on the south section of Eagles Nest and are shown on our trail map as pink lines.

Carol Conover said she may need a volunteer to pull a two horse trailer for next Monday's ride at Eagles Nest. Marsha Weiser volunteered to do this.

Carol Conover reported that she has a list of people who want to join FHBCH. Emily Dennis asked Carol to provide the list to Thomas Demond and our membership committee. Gregg Mason suggested that we add a FHBCH flyer at Eagles Nest, to better inform the many trail riders at Eagles Nest of our existence. Carol has contacted the Beaumont Inn proprietor's to advertise that horsemen are welcome and horse trailer

parking is available at their establishment. Emily Dennis suggested that we place a sign-in sheet at Eagles Nest to help us document how many out-of-town visitors Eagles Nest draws. Carla Perry suggested placing brochures in several businesses in our area. Tom Herndon suggested that the membership committee will follow up with this suggestion and bring a proposal back to the December general membership meeting.

Bob Cairns gave a Shaker Village trails update. Bob is creating a plan to improve some of the muddy areas on the Shawnee Run trail. Don Pelly has the funds to rent a Ditch Witch to help with this renovation. Bob also wants to do some deburning to help with water run off. Bob reported that Shaker Village has again this year offered a discount on their annual trail pass to FHBCCH members. The discounted price will be \$100 instead of the normal \$120. We can collect the funds at our December general membership meeting at our Christmas party. The monies have to be collected and returned to Shaker Village by December 18. Emily Dennis asked if we want to make the discounted season pass available to our members only. Bob said that this discount is not open to the general public. So we will make the discount available only to FHBCCH members. We may include others in the discount, on a case by case basis.

Our Christmas party will be Saturday December 5 at Bob Cairns and Paula Freeman's home.

Carol Conover mentioned that Eagles Nest will be closed January, February, and March, except for trail work.

Thomas Demond volunteered to create an Eagles Nest website and an Eagles Nest facebook fan club.

Pat Warner gave a treasurer's report. There has been no monies coming in or spent in the last month. So our starting balance and ending balance is \$4761.53.

Emily Dennis briefly discussed each item in the calendar of events that was provided in the handout.

The Natural Horsemanship clinic is Saturday November 7. Linda Mueller asked that Riders for the Son members and FHBCCH members bring 2 dishes and some drink to contribute to the potluck lunch. Linda mentioned that she has access to a portable sound

system if we need to use it. We should also remember to bring lawn chairs, and bring long tables for the food, if we have them.

A series of Mercer County Action committee meetings has begun. The objective of these meetings is to review Mercer county's comprehensive plan and to make recommendations relevant to the planning process. Emily Dennis stressed the importance of having horse people involved in these meetings. Betty Paris attended the first meeting. Beth Glaesser volunteered to attend future meetings.

Gregg Mason made a motion to adjourn. Bob Cairns seconded the motion. The motion carried.