

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen

General Membership meeting minutes

December 3 2009

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

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

The November 3 Board of Directors meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Carla Perry made a motion to approve these minutes. Gregg Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The November 5 general membership meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Carla Perry made a motion to approve these minutes. Gregg Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emily Dennis mentioned that Michael and Carol Conover are currently visiting Hitchcock Woods in South Carolina. This property has some features and long term preservation goals very similar to Eagles Nest.

Thomas Demond gave a membership committee report. Three members have renewed their membership in the last few weeks. Three new members have joined since our last monthly meeting. Emily Dennis thanked Tom Herndon for creating and mailing the membership renewal notice to all members. Tom suggests that future mass communications be done primarily by email to make it easier and less expensive. Emily asked Tom to submit his expenses for reimbursement. We have some Kentucky Horse Council grant money remaining to cover the expense. We ended this discussion by introducing the new members.

Essie Rogers noted that Kentucky Horse Council memberships expire December 31. So any KHC members who want to continue their \$1 million horse liability insurance needs to renew their KHC membership by December 31. Essie also reminded us that Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen will get \$10 for each of our members that is also a

KHC member.

Emily Dennis reported that Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen was named “Association of the Year” by the Kentucky Horse Council at the KHC annual meeting. FHBCCH received a very nice certificate and silver cup. Emily will ask if we can display this award at the Mercer County Extension Office.

Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen's associate member dues to Kentucky Horse Council are due. The annual cost is \$50. Dennis Blackburn made a motion to continue our KHC membership and pay the dues. Pat Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried. Essie Rogers abstained from this vote.

Emily Dennis mentioned that we need volunteers for an Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Carla Perry was on the committee last year, and reported that the work involved is generating a news release, create the agenda, plan and organize the food and drinks, and help with the ballots and vote. Cynthia Bates has contacted the Lexington Mounted Police about being a featured presenter at our annual meeting. They are willing to do this, depending on schedule. The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Melissa Mcquire, Carla Perry, Karen Wolfe. Dayna Nelson was also volunteered to arrange for the door prizes.

We also need volunteers for a Nominating Committee. Two Board of Director's positions are expiring and will need to be filled. The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Emily Dennis, Gregg Mason, and Essie Rogers.

Dennis Blackburn gave an Eagles Nest trail update. The permits for reworking several stream crossing are in process. This process normally takes 6 to 8 weeks. Dennis has planned an Eagles Nest trail work day on January 16, with an alternate date of January 23. The work day will start at 9:00am and will be both a walk and work and ride and work event. We will meet at the pavilion by the lake. It will consist mostly of trail limb lopping and general trail clearing. Michael Conover has put gravel down in a few of the muddy areas. The trails are very muddy, and we will need to do some major pick and shovel work soon. We also will need to purchase geotech fabric and gravel. The geotech fabric costs \$15 per square yard. Sharon Culbertson said she has some geotech fabric and she will donate. Essie Rogers asked how long we major renovations should be expected to last. Dennis said it depends on the area. The flat areas will hold a long time. Some of the steep grades will require continuous maintenance. Thomas Demond asked if we should close some trails for an extended period. Dennis said that would be

ideal, if possible. Dennis also said another option would be to reroute some of the trails. John Bates mentioned that we need a master trail plan for organizing work efforts and prioritizing the areas to be worked on. Essie suggested that we should create a master plan and present it to the Conovers for approval. Essie Rogers made a motion that we create an Eagles Nest Master Trail Plan. John seconded the motion. The motion carried. Dennis said we should create a committee to create this trail plan. The following members volunteered to serve on this committee: Dennis Blackburn, Brian Rogers, Carla Perry, Michael Gillespie, and Pat Warner.

Emily Dennis reported on the National Park Service and Equestrian Land Conservation Resource work on behalf of Eagles Nest. They created a binder of different properties similar to Eagles Nest for the Conovers to review. This is where the similarities with the Hitchcock Woods in South Carolina was noticed. Don Snellings said the Hitchcock Woods is very well established and maintained.

Bob Cairns gave an Shaker Village trail report. Don has asked Bob to reroute a section of Shawnee Run trail that currently traverses a rocky slope. Bob went last Sunday and evaluated the area. His opinion is the best solution may be to keep the trail where it is and do major maintenance on it. Don has money to rent a Ditch Witch for the work. Bob plans to schedule a work day after the holiday. Bob estimates he will need a work crew of 5 – 6 people for a 3 day work weekend. Bob asked members to let him know if they would like to volunteer. Bob thanked John Bates for organizing the Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen volunteers for the Shaker Village Endurance Ride in late November. Bob reported the ride went well, and our help was greatly appreciated. Bob is currently collecting money for Shaker Village trail season passes at the reduced rate for FH BCH members.

Pat Warner gave the Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen financial report. Carla Perry made a motion that we accept the financial report. Tom Herndon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dennis Blackburn discussed the Cave Run Trail Initiative. With the Forest Service proposal horse riders will lose approximately 35 percent of their existing trails, including the very popular Caney Run Loop trail. An equine committee group has been formed to create alternative trail proposals. Dennis asked that we all keep abreast of this initiative and be prepared to contact Forest Service personnel to urge the consideration of alternate trail proposals.

Bob Cairns made a motion to adjourn. Tom Herndon seconded the motion. The motion carried.