

## **Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen**

### **General Membership meeting minutes**

**January 14 2010**

Meeting called to order by President Emily Dennis at 7:05pm.

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

The December 3 general membership meeting minutes were discussed and presented for approval. Dennis Blackburn made a motion to approve these minutes. Gregg Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emily Dennis reported that the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) has invited FHBCH to remain a partner organization. ELCR has changed the name of their Partners Program to Conservation Partners. There is now three levels of membership, basic level, plus level, and premier level. The fee for basic partner membership is \$100. Dennis Blackburn made a motion to continue our membership at the \$100 level. Tom Herndon seconded the motion. The motion carried. John Bates said he would like to resign his position as one of the FBCH members who is invited to join in on the quarterly ELCR meetings. Emily asked for volunteers to take over this responsibility. Dennis Blackburn volunteered.

Pat Warner gave the treasurer's report. In the past month the club has collected \$490.00 in dues, and has paid \$50 membership fee to the Kentucky Horse Council. The beginning balance was \$4821.53 and the ending balance is \$5261.53. Bob Cairns made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Dennis Blackburn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Emily Dennis discussed the upcoming elections at our annual meeting. John Bates stated he has decided to resign his Director position effective at the conclusion of our annual meeting. John stated that requirements at his place of work have changed and he will not be able to reliably attend monthly meetings. John is also the current Secretary so that position will need to be filled as well. There will be four Director's positions to

be filled. The positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary will also open, to be filled by members of the Board. Emily asked each member to seriously consider being willing to serve on our Board of Directors and also fill these officer positions. Nominations will be accepted at our February general membership meeting.

The next agenda item was ratification of the proposed KyBCH State organization bylaws. John Bates gave a brief presentation on the BCH State organization committee he and Dennis Blackburn have been working on, representing FHBCH. This committee has created a set of bylaws for the new State organization. Each of the current five local BCH affiliates in Kentucky now need to ratify these bylaws in order to make application to BCHA to form the new KyBCH State organization. There was then excellent discussion of the proposed State bylaws. Several questions and concerns were discussed. Gregg Mason stated a concern about the bylaws allowing state level members-at-large to serve as officers of the State organization. Emily Dennis raised her concern about the possible conflict between a KyBCH State organization and the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC). Ron Brown mentioned that KHC is really an organization representing a broader spectrum of horse owners, and the KyBCH State organization will be more narrowly focused on trails and trail riders. Dennis Blackburn mentioned there is a larger overlap of the BCH members currently serving on the KHC trail committee. David Rule raised a concern about the way voting is defined in the proposed state bylaws, specifically the issue of the super majority vote and the three fourths of voting Directors and rounding up to the next whole number. There was some discussion about our club asking the state committee to change the bylaws to remove this rounding up provision. David also questioned the ability of the State Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign checks. David said all state check disbursement should be signed by the Treasurer, and cosigned by the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Thomas Demond asked what would be the consequence of FHBCH not ratifying the proposed bylaws. Dennis Blackburn explained that if any local affiliate fails to ratify the proposed bylaws then the state committee will have to continue to modify the bylaws until every local affiliate can ratify them. At the end of this lengthy discussion, Ron Brown made a motion to ratify the proposed state bylaws. Brian Rogers seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Emily Dennis abstaining, and David and Thomas voting against. Emily then signed the bylaws signifying ratification by FHBCH.

Bob Cairns gave a Shaker Village Trail Boss report. Bob reported that the weather has been too bad to have any work days. He is planning to schedule a work day in the near future, once the weather improves.

Dennis Blackburn gave an Eagles Nest Trail Boss report. There is a trail work day

scheduled for Saturday January 16. Please plan to meet at the pavilion at 9:00am. Dennis asked that we do not bring horses because of the extremely muddy conditions. Dennis thanked Ron Brown for donating several tons of granite rock. This has been placed at muddy areas around the pavilion. One of the jobs to be accomplished at the work day is to use sledge hammers to break the granite into smaller pieces. The rest of the work day will be focused on walking the center section trails and using limb loppers and chain saws to clear the trails. Dennis also reported the application for permits to improve several creek crossings is proceeding. Michael Conover signed the application last week, and the application will be filed shortly. Dennis' sister-in-law is a professional in this area, and has appraised the creek crossings we will be working on and has made several recommendations. Dennis also reported the Eagles Nest Master Trail Plan work has not yet begun, but he plans to start that discussion with all the trail boss assistants at the Saturday work day.

Thomas Demond gave a membership committee report. We currently have 48 active 2010 memberships, representing 57 members. There have also been 14 new memberships which is 15 members. Thomas has created a FHBCH fan page on facebook, and there are currently 18 facebook fans.

Emily Dennis gave an annual meeting committee report. Cynn timer Bates stated the Lexington Mounted Police will be our featured presenters. Emily asked if we want to have a morning breakfast meeting or an evening dinner meeting. The general consensus was for an evening dinner meeting. So the meeting will be the evening of Saturday March 6, 6:00pm – 8:30pm at the Mercer County Extension office. It will be a pot luck dinner.

Emily Dennis lead a discussion of upcoming events. There will be a tack sale at Carpenter's Christian Church February 6. FHBCH will have a tack table again this year. All members are asked to donate some tack items to FHBCH for this sale. Cheryl Dorman stated the Buffalo Trace Mounted Police will have an informational meeting January 28 6:00-8:00pm at the Mercer Co. Extension Office. Dennis Blackburn mentioned the Kentucky Horse Council Trail Summit will be February 12 thru 14 at Blue Licks State Park. During this summit, there will be a Sunday morning Trail Leader Council Strategy meeting. We would like to have a FHBCH representative at this important meeting. Emily asked any member let her or Dennis know if they would like to attend this meeting during the summit. Shaker Village has a controlled burn scheduled for February 15, with a contingency plan of the following week. The trails will be closed during this burn. Holley Williamson is giving a Natural Horsemanship clinic Saturday March 27 at Asbury College. This will be a basic beginners class both

on ground and under saddle. Melissa McGuire mentioned she will attend the Clinton Anderson clinic February 27 and 28 at the Kentucky Horse Park. Melissa has room in her car if anyone would like to carpool.

Beth Glaesser made a motion to adjourn. Bob Cairns seconded the motion. The motion carried.