

**Northeast Reining Horse Association Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Conference Call
Saturday, February 21, 2009**

Board Members in Attendance: Candy Conway, Judy Galipeau, Michelle Robertson, Sheli Senecal, Geri Wasylak, Lois Gaetz, Michele Whitney, Cathy Nevitt, George Riden, Dennis Tito

Board Members in Absence: Dirk Winkelhake, Carrie Austin, Barry Sanborn

The following is a summary of the Board of Directors meeting held on Saturday, February 21, 2009. The full meeting minutes will be available on line.

- I. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:** The meeting was called to order and the November 15, 2008 minutes were approved.
- II. **Financial & Budget Report** (Michelle Robertson) – The NERHA Board of Directors receives and reviews detailed financial reports monthly and at all Board Meetings, and considers this information confidential. If you are a member and would like more information, please contact the NERHA Treasurer.
- III. **Show Committee Update** (Candy Conway) –
 - A. The board reviewed the 2009 show management schedule. The preliminary work for the first 3 shows is complete; judges are confirmed and contracts have been signed. Exhibitor parties and fundraisers are being planned. Show flyers are complete and online. The Northampton and Maine shows are still in progress.
 - B. Summary of 2009 Show Changes (handout) – The NRHA is offering several new classes and has modified several eligibility levels for 2009. Please refer to the 2009 NRHA Handbook for complete details. The NERHA has adopted several guideline changes for the 2009 show season. A summary of the NRHA and NERHA changes can be found on the NERHA website under Events.
- IV. **Show Vendor Updates** (Michelle Robertson) – All shows have confirmed food vendors; there are clothing vendors confirmed for both Oneco and Northampton shows. We still need vendors for Topsfield and Skowhegan. There are tack and embroidery vendor's setup for Northampton and the first Oneco show.
- V. **NERHyA Club Update** (Michele Whitney) –
 - A. NERHyA Facebook – The NERHyA Facebook webpage has become a great success! Keep in touch with your friends and fellow reiners. To all interested youth, please remember to check with your parents before using Facebook. Parents, as with anything to do with the internet I encourage you to check out Facebook along with your child.
 - B. Fundraisers and Activities – There are many fundraising activities being planned by the NERHyA this year. They will have the 50/50 raffle at the Spring Spin, the Boot Race and Sit-A-Buck at the Summer Prelude, possibly the dog races at the Falls Creek Slide, a ProAm at the Northeast Classic and the Chuck-A-Duck at the Super Slide-In. Nothing has been planned yet for The Maine Event.

Sales and Merchandise – Since there are a number of adults that buy more than the youth's, Michele Whitney is interested in finding out what if any items should be

repeated. Amanda Whitney is looking into the costs for other items such as windbreakers, hats, tee-shirts and different styles of sweatshirts. There are also Messenger bags left for sale.

- VI. **Sponsorship Update** (Dirk Winkelhake) – Not in attendance, tabled until the next meeting.
- VII. **Magazine Update** (Carrie Austin) – Not in attendance, tabled until the next meeting.
- VIII. **Website Update** (Sheli Senecal) – Liz Pino resigned her position as Chair of the Website Committee in late January. The Board of Directors would like to thank Liz for her efforts and we look forward to seeing her in the coming show season. Since Liz's resignation, Sheli Senecal has been the acting Chair.
 - A. Current Status – The Calendar of Events has been updated and flyers for the first 3 shows have been posted. There are several listing under What's News for fundraisers and clinics.
 - B. Website Proposal – To be reviewed under New Business
- IX. **Clinic Update** (Lois Gaetz) – Lois Gaetz is working with Jared LeClair for a clinic on April 25th and 26th. The details are still being worked out and Lois needs to confirm the location. All information will be posted to the website as soon as it has been finalized. Lois will also be contacting the Equine Journal for sponsorship.
- X. **Banquet Summary** (Geri Wasylak/Michelle Robertson) – The weather did not deter many people from coming to the banquet and those that were able to come really enjoyed themselves. Although 90 people attended, numbers were down from the prior year. The banquet cost \$3,930 but only ran \$430 over budget. The hotel did not hold us to the confirmed number; if they had the cost would have been greater. The hotel staff was excellent and easy to work with; we'll be looking to hold the banquet at the same location next year. Geri Wasylak wanted to thank both Michelle Robertson and Michele Whitney for helping out. Geri also has a CD of all the photo's taken at the banquet by our photographer. She will be sending that to Sheli Senecal to be put on the new NERHA Snap Fish account.
- XI. **Show Secretary/Membership Update** (Cathy Nevitt) – Currently there are 73 Adults and 13 Youths that have renewed their membership. This is typical since most people renew at the first show. Cathy has also received the updated software for 2009.
- XII. **Affiliate Update** (George Riden) – Everything has been sent in to the NRHA for our affiliate status. Designation forms will be available at the first show but Sheli Senecal will also post them to the website so members can send them in early.
- XIII. **Membership Liaison** (Dennis Tito) – Nothing to report at this time.
- XIV. **New Business** –
 - A. Membership Survey (Candy Conway) – Dirk Winkelhake is still receiving responses from the membership survey. Dirk will send out preliminary results to the Board as soon as he returns from his current business trip.
 - B. New Website Chair (Candy Conway) – Candy Conway made the recommendation to appoint Sheli Senecal as the new Website Committee Chair. Michelle Robertson

made a motion to accept the recommendation, George Riden made a motion to second; appointment approved.

- C. New Website Proposal (Sheli Senecal) – Over the last several months there has been much discussion around updating the website. Liz Pino started this project and Sheli Senecal was working in conjunction with her to write a proposal and make recommendations to the board. Since Liz's resignation Sheli has continue with this process and a proposal was submitted to the Board for consideration. In short the recommendation was to contract with an outside vendor to build a new website that would provide utilization of current technology, efficient functionality for the association and membership, a new design, structure and an updated logo. The Board was in favor of the recommendation but wanted time to review the written proposal. In the mean time a website committee will be convened to look more closely at vendors and costs before the Board will pass a motion on the proposal.
 - D. Awards for Non Approved Classes (Michelle Robertson) – At this time there are 4 Pewter's, 4 Non-Approved plaques (4 others that could be used if there were plaque stands) and 16 NRHA plaques that can be recycled. Michelle Robertson will make a recommendation on how these donated awards can be utilized.
 - E. NERHA Travel Program (Geri Wasylak) – Tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.
 - F. UNCONN Western Team (Candy Conway) – Candy wanted to make the Board aware that she had been approached by the UNCONN Western Team looking for a sponsorship donation. The general consensus was that we should support the team with a contribution, however before doing that we want to make sure that we have some guidelines in place in the event that other collegiate teams approach us.
- XV. **Upcoming Meeting(s)** – The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Westford Regency. Details are on the website under News/Announcements.
- The April meeting will be held during the Oneco show, details to come.
- XVI. **Adjournment** – Sheli Senecal made a motion to adjourn, Cathy Nevitt seconds. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm