

Northeast Reining Horse Association Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Westford Regency, Westford, MA
Saturday, March 21, 2009

Board Members in Attendance: Candy Conway, Michelle Robertson, Michele Whitney, Cathy Nevitt, Lois Gaetz, Geri Wasylak, Carrie Austin

Board Members in Absence: Judy Galipeau, Sheli Senecal, George Riden, Dennis Tito, Barry Sanborn, Dirk Winkelhake

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by NERHA President Candy Conway at 4:20 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The Board of Director's Meeting Minutes of 2/21/09 were presented. Geri Wasylak made a motion to accept, Carrie Austin made a motion to second; minutes approved.
- III. **Financial & Budget Report** (Michelle Robertson) – The association ended 2008 with \$64,000 in the treasury. We've spent \$8,400 to date on show ground deposits and awards leaving a balance of \$55,600 in the treasury. Michelle reports that we are on track and on budget for this time of year. However, we do have more money going out than we have coming in. This will change as more memberships fees come in. Cathy Nevitt made a motion to accept, Geri Wasylak seconds, and financials were approved.
- IV. **Show Committee** (Candy Conway) –
 - A. The planning for the first 3 shows has been completed; judges are confirmed, contracts have been signed, vendors are in place along with the exhibitor parties and youth fundraisers. Planning for the Northampton shows and The Maine Event are still in progress however the Northeast Classic flyer is complete and online, the judges have been verbally confirmed and hotel rates have been negotiated. Embroiders had been secured for the shows. Photo 63 will be contacted for the Oneco shows. There was also some discussion of having a link to the embroidery company on the website.
 - B. A suggestion was made to have an online registration for the Northeast Classic BBQ; this would help with planning and numbers.
 - C. At the Northeast Classic, a suggestion was made to offer a morning hospitality service of coffee and donuts. All agreed it's a good idea if we can find the volunteers to put it together.
 - D. A suggestion was made to obtain contact information for donations from Coke in Northampton and Cumberland Farms for donations of water for exhibitors at the NoHo shows. Board will follow up.
 - E. There will be an analysis of the Derby at the August show to determine what levels to offer along with how much money to put into the divisions being offered. Youth will be combined age groups 13 and under and 14-18.
- V. **Youth Update** (Amanda Whitney) – Amanda Whitney gave a presentation on merchandise. Ideas were discussed for men's and ladies shirts, a NERHyA windbreaker and more would be coming on hats. Anticipated having merchandise for the Spring Spin.

- VI. **Sponsorships** (Candy Conway) – Dirk provided an update prior to the meeting. He reported that the Hodges were sponsoring the same as last year. Continental Saddle would be donating one saddle. US Bit Makers would donate one pair of custom spurs. William Hollister would be a platinum sponsor. Also receiving donations from Poulin Grain and Orchard Trailer. Michele Whitney reported that Jim Blumer is sponsoring the Morrison for the youth derby.
- VII. **Magazine Update** (Carrie Austin) – The Newsletter will be just 5 issues this year and will go back to 6 next year. Discussion included talk about how the newsletter does not cost as much as thought because many sponsors receive free advertising as part of their donations and the write off would need to be shown on the books. Also having a bulk permit for the mailing is going to be looked into to save time and money in future. Discussion also included having training tips again, youth and member spotlights; good luck notes (\$5.00 each to be sold at an upcoming show), Farm highlights, and any articles that people wanted to write.
- VIII. **Website Committee** (Candy Conway) – The website committee met to discuss design and functionality of a new website. Minutes from that meeting were forwarded to Candy Conway for discussion at this meeting. Candy authorized Sheli Senecal to write up an RFP and she would forward the website committee meeting minutes to rest of board.
- IX. **Clinic Update** (Lois Gaetz) – The Jared LeClair and Ben Gerst clinic can accommodate 14 riders per day, \$150.00 per day. It will be held at the UMASS Hadley farm. Two horses per day plus tack will need to be provided for the clinicians. Lisa Boon and Dan Whitney have offered to provide horses, and Lois will confirm prior to the clinic.
- Equine Journal – only giving 2 subscriptions instead of cash this year – going to ask if they can convert to a credit off the equine journal bill.
- X. **Show Secretary/Membership Update** (Cathy Nevitt) – We currently have 114 members; 95 adults and 19 youths. There are currently 13 online registrations for the Spring Spin. We need rider numbers – idea came up to ask the Equine Journal to convert donations to numbers. Cathy will also look into getting Tyvek numbers.
- XI. **Affiliate Update** (Candy Conway) – Nothing to report.
- XII. **Old Business** –
- A. Online Updates – It was determined that the online updates (eAnnouncements) should go out monthly. Deadline for topic submission is the first of the month with the update going out the first week of each month.
- XIII. **New Business** –
- A. Recap of recent postings to website – Sheli has been updating the website as needed. Online registrations are available, events and announcements, classifieds, NERHyA officer's page etc.
- B. Banquet & Annual Elections – It was discussed that we could possibly combine the annual elections with the year-end awards banquet.
- C. Bylaws – Ideas about changing voting procedures; Candy Conway is going to put something in her President's letter.

D. Sue Ayers came to discuss the Patrick Corrigan fundraiser; Geri Wayslak moved to donate \$500.00 from NERHA to Patrick, Michelle Robertson seconds and motion passed.

XIV. Upcoming Meeting(s) – The next general membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Spring Spin in Oneco, CT. There was much discussion about having the office and arena closed to encourage attendance.

XV. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm