

**Northeast Reining Horse Association, Board of Directors Meeting  
Holiday Inn, Boxborough MA  
Sunday, November 15, 2009**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Dirk Winkelhake, Karen Black Clark, Michelle Robertson, Sheli Senecal (via speakerphone), Candy Conway, Michele Whitney, Geri Wasylak, Cathy Nevitt, Jennifer Johnson, Dan Whitney

**Board Members in Absence:** Dennis Tito, George Riden

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by NERHA President, Dirk Winkelhake at 1:12 pm.
- II. **Opening Remarks:** (Dirk Winkelhake) – We expect that the economy will continue to impact our shows in 2010. However, we would like to keep to a six show schedule, and control costs for exhibitors and the club by hosting two slates at each show. The Board will need to focus on tight budgeting and cost containment. The main objective of this meeting is to approve a show schedule to meet the NRHA deadline of December 1, 2009 for submission of our affiliate shows. A preliminary show calendar including the known dates of all affiliate and national shows that could impact attendance at NERHA shows was distributed to all present for discussion. Dirk suggested that we discuss and vote on one show at a time, in chronological order.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** As the Secretary was available via conference call, the October minutes will be sent via email for approval.
- IV. **Financial & Budget Report** (Michelle Robertson) – The NERHA Board of Directors receives and reviews detailed financial reports monthly and at all Board Meetings; this information is considered confidential. If you are a member and would like more information, please contact the NERHA Treasurer.
- V. **New Business –**

A. **2010 Show Schedule –**

**April 18 – 20, Oneco, CT:** Discussion of this date and venue indicated conflict with the Mass QH show at Northampton and the NRBC show in TX. It was felt that these 2 shows can impact a large number of our members who show and decrease attendance at an early season show. A motion for an NRHA approved show on this date and at this venue was tabled. The Board will look into other potential options for this slot.

**April 30 – May 2, Topsfield, MA (Spring Spin):** Karen Black Clark has visited the Topsfield fairgrounds and met with management. A new warm-up area has been installed. By putting temporary stalls in existing buildings, the grounds can accommodate up to 300 stalls. Management is enthusiastic about holding NERHA shows there, and willing to let us have more input on ground conditions. A motion was made by Michele Whitney and seconded by Michelle Robertson to hold our first NERHA affiliate circuit show at Topsfield, April 30 – May 2, 2010. Motion was approved unanimously.

**May 21 – 23, Topsfield, MA (Summer Prelude):** The only date that Oneco could give us in May conflicts with the May EPRHA show. Topsfield has these dates available that do not conflict with either EPRHA or SERHA shows. A motion was made by Michele Whitney and seconded by Michelle Robertson to hold our second NERHA affiliate circuit show at Topsfield, May 22 - 23, 2010. Motion was approved unanimously.

**June:** The only June dates available to us at any of our usual venues conflict with CNYRHA, EPRHA and the NRHA Derby. The new NRHA rule changes enacted for 2010 prohibit holding an NRHA-sanctioned event the same week as the NRHA Derby or the week before the Derby without NRHA Executive Committee approval. After discussion, the Board agreed to forego holding an approved show in June, 2010, but will explore other NERHA activities for that month.

**July 2 – 4, Topsfield, MA (Independence Classic):** The 4<sup>th</sup> of July date does not have any regional conflicts, and Topsfield is available. Given the success of the Pro-Am Tournament last year on this date, a preference was indicated to hold the Pro-Am Tournament at this show in Topsfield. A motion was made by Michele Whitney and seconded by Michelle Robertson to hold our third NERHA affiliate circuit show at Topsfield, July 2 - 4, 2010. Motion was approved unanimously.

**August 18 – 22, Northampton, MA (Super Slide-In):** The NoHo fairgrounds have moved our date to one week later in the month of August for 2010. After confirming with Katarina Dorminy that this date will not conflict with the Perry, GA show as it did last year; a preference was indicated to continue to hold the Futurity and Derby at this venue. Due to the timing of the show, it will not be eligible as an affiliate qualifier. A motion was made by Michele Whitney and seconded by Michelle Robertson to hold our fourth NERHA show at Northampton, August 18 – 22, 2010. Motion was approved unanimously.

**September, 2010 (Reiner's Rendezvous):** Three options may be available in September; Swanzey 9/10 – 9/12, Oneco 9/24 – 9/26, or Maine 9/24 – 9/26. Swanzey apparently now has a covered warm-up, but concern was expressed about the condition of the grounds. Karen is meeting with the Swanzey management on 11/19 and will see if we can do anything to improve the grounds. This date would also be the week before the Affiliate Finals, which are in New Jersey at the Dream Park this year. Candy will follow up with Oneco and Karen will follow up with Maine to confirm that those dates are still available. A preference was indicated that no matter what date or venue we end up with, the American Pie Maturity will be held in conjunction with the September show. Action was tabled on the date/location of the fifth NERHA show pending the outcome of follow-up items.

**October 29 – 31, Oneco, CT (Fall Festival):** This show would incorporate our Annual Meeting. This date would not conflict with Congress, CNYRHA, EPRHA or SERHA. A motion was made by Cathy Nevitt and seconded by Michele Whitney to hold our sixth NERHA show at Oneco, October 29 – 31, 2010. Motion was approved unanimously.

## B. Board Openings –

Jennifer Johnson has indicated an interest in joining the NERHA Board with responsibility for Sponsorship. A motion was made by Michelle Robertson and seconded by Geri Wasylak to approve Jennifer Johnson as an NERHA Board member with responsibility for Sponsorship for a 2 year term. Motion was approved unanimously.

Dan Whitney has indicated an interest in joining the NERHA Board with responsibility for Grounds. A motion was made by Cathy Nevitt and seconded by Geri Wasylak to approve Dan Whitney as an NERHA Board member with responsibility for Grounds for a 2 year term. Motion was approved unanimously.

Michele Whitney has indicated an interest in changing her Board responsibility from Youth to the NERHA Newsletter. The Board agreed with this transfer of responsibility, and will continue to look for interested members to join the Board to manage our Youth Committee and Gates/Scribes Committee.

- C. **Annual Banquet** – The Annual Banquet will be held January 9, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA. The Champion and Reserve buckles have been ordered, and the Board agreed to continue to award ribbons through 10<sup>th</sup> place, but to eliminate the additional 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards that had been given last year. Hat cans will also be awarded to all Youth members.
- D. **Newsletter Discussion** – Michele Whitney and Karen Clark have put together a proposal for the management of the newsletter for 2010. The proposal will be reviewed in detail at the next Board meeting. The Board did agree, however, that the budget for the newsletter must be breakeven for 2010.

A flyer will be coming out very shortly to include a membership renewal form, banquet reservation form, and to promote a trophy recycling program.

- VI. **Next Meeting Date** – Sunday, December 13, Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA, 1 – 4 pm
- VII. **Adjournment** – Motion was made by Jen Johnson, Michele Whitney seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.