

HCRC Board Meeting
2/10/2026

Italics = Not discussed in this meeting

Participants: Teri Bullis (remotely), Diane Merritt, Jennifer Peotter, Irina Scully, Diane Miller, Molly McCutcheon, Rory Flynn

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

- January minutes approved pending bowling date correction

Treasurer's Report:

- \$323.31 brought in by membership
 - Board members need to renew membership
- \$50 donated for scholarship fund

Membership:

- 37 Renewals in so far not counting a few board members.

Survey:

- Jen created draft of survey, but doesn't have the settings fully finished in the google form yet
 - Board members can complete survey to check for glitches
 - Questions so far are about nonriding and riding event ideas, demographics, and grounds
 - If members want to make edits they can email Jen
 - Jen will add in survey
 - Question about preferences for communication preferences
 - Question about if members would like to hear about the book about Hawley at meeting in advance of the Hawley ride
 - Question about if members have interest in a mounted shooting clinic
 - Question to gauge interest in drill team vs versatility after checking in with Sherry about Peter
- *Jen reviewed past surveys that we've done and noted:*
 - *We offered a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate for folks who completed the survey*
 - *We got a great response to our last survey*

Administrative Tasks (insurance, tax forms, etc.):

- Diane Merritt will ask if we can we get directors insurance through American National and if non-members can join trail rides when she meets about her personal policy
 - Board members thought lower membership price for trails wasn't necessary (Diane Merritt will try to encourage membership to attend other trails if non-members are turned away from a trail)
 - Teri sent copy of director's policy Diane Merritt and Irina

Bylaws Committee:

- Subcommittee will meet again before passing the material on to the rest of the board for review

Advertising & Promotion:

- Jen added many more barns to the email list
- In addition to the to the event list a flyer could be created for individuals events to be posted at barns

Grounds Business:

- **Porta-Potty:** Teri emailed with Goshen Health department, composting toilets are allowed if you complete all necessary items in a documentation checklist
 - There was a spreadsheet of approved composting porta-potty (still could likely get a different one, but might be slightly more difficult)
 - Notice of the composting porta potty and cost-benefit-analysis will be sent to members by Teri to solicit concerns on a timeline, and then we purchase shed
 - We could also ask for help from members with site work
 - Jen will remove porta-potty question from the survey to expedite feedback
 - Teri will draft email to ask about specs and confirm that it will be accessible
 - Needs 60" turning diameter
 - 32" door that opens inwards
 - Bars may need to be installed
- **Spring Grounds Clean Up:** May 2nd approved as date with May 3rd as raindate
- Diane Merritt proposed tent at riding club grounds
 - Board members will keep an eye out for a used tent and explore idea more
- **Paint-the-Grounds Initiative** - *Could we sell sponsorship to local businesses and then hire someone to do painting?*
- **Secretary Booth Door:** *Door is ready to be installed - can be installed during our Grounds Clean Up Day*
- **Lights:** *Solar, mounted on 2x4's pressure-treated at least 8 feet tall (Rory's are mounted about 7 feet high), 8 posts?*
 - *We will send a survey to members about if they would support new lighting and footing improvements - Would people use it if we made these improvements?*
 - *Rory, Diane, and Teri met at Rory's and determined we will need to have lights mounted at least 9 feet high*
 - *When we are ready, we might consider getting one light and see how well it illuminates and then make a determination about a lighting plan for the whole ring*
- *New sign some day? Sign at Route 9?*
- *Rental of our grounds - Make available for weddings? Board agreed we should discuss this further in future meetings*
- *Improvements: Pavilion? Fair Season Tent? Stalls?*

Past Events:

- *Bowling*

Upcoming Events (Identify Point Person for each, use pre-event checklist):

- **Trivia:** Both proposed March dates were already booked by other parties at Smith Voc
 - Save the date for trivia wasn't sent out yet on facebook so date could be shifted if no other location is secured
 - Options for locations
 - Bar rental
 - Unknown whether kids would be allowed in a bar
 - Teri will ask Ash at the Canal Lanes whether kids would be allowed in their bar
 - Diane Miller. has in the past rented 6 Pine Street space and will contact the owners to inquire about the price
 - Diane Miller will also ask about allowing nonprofits to use space at JFK
- May 2nd approved for clean up day with 3rd as the raindate
- **Board meeting space:**
 - If we want to encourage higher attendance from members we need a large and convenient space
 - Lise's location is spacious but a farther drive for some
 - Committee voted to set meeting tentatively at Diane Merritt next month
 - Meekins library could be used if an alternate day of the week is chosen, Diane Merritt will ask about space availability
- **Career fair:** is at Stoneleigh-Burnham
 - Rory will reserve table, Teri is planning on being there
- **Whitmore clinic:**
 - Jen will reach out to Sherry to see if she's heard back from Peter Whitmore
 - We could ask Peter to switch clinic to drill team rather than the versatility to introduce something new and would allow the clinic to take place in the fall
 - Jen will add question in the survey to gauge interest in drill team vs versatility after checking in with Sherry about Peter
- **Trail rides:** date and location checks
 - Jen will email Jamie about Chesterfield Gorge ride parking logistics
 - They need to know in advance our date to avoid conflicts
 - We needed us to collect fee for vehicle, at a higher rate because of the trucks and trailers (in 2024 the fee was \$5)
 - Diane will confirm location for Montague Plain
 - DAR ride will leave from the Goshen ball field
 - Diane will call Northfield to confirm ride on the weekend of September 20th, and will look into the possibility of switching from Sunday to Saturday to increase attendance
- *Trail rides*
 - *May 17th Chesterfield Gorge ride*
 - *July 26th Montague Plains ride*

- *August 23rd DAR ride*
- *September 20th Northfield ride*
- *October 25th Hawley ride*
- *Games dates*
 - *3 games for Thursday nights in summer*
 - *July 16th, 30th, and August 6th*
- *October 18th Sherri is holding a 4-H fun day*

Event Options yet to be scheduled

- Pony club was enthusiastic about working with us on a demo or event
 - They passed on possible dates to Jen
- Jen reached out to an Easthampton insurance company specializing in pet trusts about a clinic
- Diane Miller proposed to hold the gut bucket clinic June 17th in place of the board meeting
 - She will reach out to clinician to check availability for that date
 - She could host at her farm under a tent
- Annual meeting will be scheduled at a later date
- Board members decided not to pursue Lake Denison for group trail but will do an experimental ride this year
- *Board agreed not to pursue pony rides at Cummington fair*
 - *When Teri hears back she can ask about an alternative like a craft*
- *Lise offered to host a saddle fit clinic that we could charge for*
 - *Lise will explore the possibility for hosting at Heritage and identify a date in June*
 - *If Heritage doesn't work out, she will ask Fuller's - and if that isn't an option, Diane Miller suggested the fairgrounds.*
- *Dianne suggested a seminar on camping with horses but there was concern over lack of interest from last year - this will be included in the survey sent to members to gauge interest - Diane will draft and Teri or Jen will send it out ASAP*
- **Seminars**
 - *What's in that hay? Poulin?*
 - *Diane Miller suggested we explore tag-teaming with Hess McWilliams vet talks*
 - *Jen noted that Massoud Hashemi at UMASS Extension office might do a talk for us*
- *PR Campaign to increase safety meeting others on trails and roads?*
- *Fall ride around property*
- *Haunted Trail Fundraiser*

Other:

Next Meetings:

- ***March 18 at 7:00pm at Diane Merrit's Diane is reaching out to Meekins about the possibility of meeting there***