

HCRC Board Meeting
1/21/2026

Italics = Not discussed in this meeting

Participants: *Teri Bullis, Diane Merritt, Jennifer Peotter, Irina Scully, Diane Miller, Molly McCutcheon, Lisa Kreiger, Rory Flynn*

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

- NA - But Teri needs to send out the Annual Report!

Treasurer's Report:

- Final Report for 2025
 - Summary is that we were ~\$1500 in debt
 - Goals this year to make and save money

Membership:

- Current Membership
 - Had 70 members as of January
 - 22 people renewed (soon to be more)
 - Jen sent out renewal letter to those who were members last year and will send out to prior members who were not current to 2025
 - Goal for board members to renew soon

Survey:

- Potential survey questions
 - What members do with horses to get an idea for desires for events and if members are also members of other clubs to avoid overlap with events of other clubs
 - Gauge interest in planning a seminar about estate planning for horse, session on knot tying, or horse camping
- *Add a question about how people prefer to receive information, if they want the Meeting Minutes, if they use FB or our website, etc.???*
- *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*
- *Diane Miller suggested that we ask folks what they want to get out of the club*
 - *Educational talks*
 - *Clinics*
 - *Trail rides*
 - *Social events*
 - *Timing (day of week, time of day)*
- *Teri and Jen volunteered to draft a survey and present to the Board*

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

- None noted

Bylaws Committee:

- Jen and Teri created draft with adjustments with notes of the changes, went through bylaws to make sure they're accurate
- The bylaws will be available shortly for board members then following that for members at large

Advertising & Promotion:

- Jen will ensure that email addresses for local barns are included on our email list - if anyone has ideas of who to include, please forward those to Jen

Grounds Business:

- **Porta-Potty:** Composting toilet is a possibility to eliminate cost of porta-potty and maintenance
 - Could buy a shed and install composting toilet on the club grounds
 - Site would need to be leveled with gravel and prepared
 - Ramp would need to be built
 - We'd need to consult on the needs of the door to be sure its handicap accessible
 - Neil at the Heartwood school has one 6'x8' shed that can have a door installed → ~\$1200 + ~\$80 an hour for transportation to the grounds from NH
 - Pending approval from the Goshen Board of Health that we can get a composting toilet (Teri has emailed them), the Board voted to proceed with the purchase of the shed from Heartwood School
- **Ring Surfacing:** Sherry noted that people have commented that the ring is not safe - suggested we re-open conversation about clearing grass to improve safety
 - Ellen Feld said we could use her dirt ring if we need one for certain events
 - Rory will ask Tyler if this is something he can do
- **Spring Grounds Clean Up**
- **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? Would they be willing to help fund it? Jen will start a draft*
 - *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:

- *End of Year Dinner Meeting*

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

- Bowling is set for event at January 31st at 6:30pm - Teri is the point person
- Trivia is March 6th at 6:00pm - Board agreed to pay \$50 for the space and whiteboard at Smith Voc
 - Teri will reserve the space and send an email to "Save the Date"
 - Teri will send a follow-up email in February with details and a request for members to bring food in for a bake sale
 - Board agreed we will each connect with our own contacts to encourage competition/ teams/ etc. to try to drum up attendance
 - Rory will post on Facebook about it (save the date)
 - Can reach out to barns (Lise and Jen will make a list of barns to add to email list so they can be included in the invitation to attend)
 - \$5 suggested donation?
 - It was suggested we have a Kids Round - Diane Miller sent contact info of Kate Beachell (Hippology - 4H) to Teri to help with questions
- Career and College Fair April 8th organized by Diane Raucher Miller will be at Stoneleigh free of charge
- 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

- Teri reached out to Cummington fair folks about pony rides which would be a win win as the pony rides would attract people and we'd make money on the ponies - Board discussed and agreed that due to safety issues, limitations on available child-safe ponies and people to volunteer to lead the pony rides, we will not pursue this further
 - When Teri hears back she can ask about an alternative like a craft

- Whitmore clinic
 - Board members are in favor of a Saturday in May, Sherry will ask Peter what his availability is
- Gut bucket clinic by McKenzie Chauncey from Kent/Blue Seal Feeds could be hosted in a variety of locations - Board agreed to schedule this - Diane floated Wednesday night in summer at 7pm at her house under tent
- 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*
- *Lake Dennison Ride*

Other:

Next Meetings:

- ***February 11 at 7:00pm at Lise's shop? Teri will be unavailable on Feb. 18 and 25***