

HCRC Board Meeting
7/16/2025

Italics = Not discussed in this meeting

Participants: Teri Bullis, Diane Merritt, Irina Scully, Jennifer Biggie-Peotter, Irina Scully, Rory Flynn

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

- June Minutes Approved

Donations:

- Thank you card to Andrea Lucchesi - Jen sent Thank You card
- Anne Porter of Porter Farm donated \$75 in sponsorship of our Games Nights - Rory will write a Thank You card for her and the other sponsors

Membership:

- Current Membership - 58 Members (same as last time)
- Jen will update and label appropriate email list on spreadsheet for sending out notices about events, etc.
- Reach out to other clubs and offer to share their events on our social media and email in exchange for them sharing our events with their membership
 - Westfield Riding Club - Diane Merritt will reach out to Hazel, who puts together their trail riding program
 - Barre Riding and Driving Club - Diane Merritt sent Teri the newsletter to be disseminated to our club

Board Vacancies:

- Jen invited Molly McCutcheon to become a member of our Board and invited her to the next meeting on August 20, 2025

Treasurer's Report:

- Income \$452.52 = \$60 (membership) \$397.52 (Games Night 7/10)
- Expenses \$273.00

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

- Diane Merritt asked if we might consider having an option for people to attend trail rides as "member for a day" - discussed options with the understanding that anyone attending trail rides needs to be a member due to insurance reasons - Board agreed to table this conversation until after this season's trail rides and see how many people might be turned away because they aren't members
- Board agreed that we will pay our insurance policy off in one payment at the beginning of each year instead of quarterly payments

Bylaws Committee:

- Bylaws Committee - Teri, Jen, Irina & Diane Merritt will meet again on 7/21 at 7:00 at Teri's house

Advertising & Promotion:

- Subgroup of Jen, Teri, and Rory will meet on 7/28 to review social media advertising procedures to ensure maximum exposure for our events including links back to the website
- Flyers: Irina, Teri, Diane Merritt, and Rory will post flyers for the last Games Night

Grounds Business:

- **Lawnmowing:**
 - Tyler sent bills for mowing in the mail - Irina will process payment when received
- **Trails:** *There remains a small amount of trail clearing to be done. Do we want to schedule a method for tackling that project?*
- **Secretary Booth Door:** Needs to be replaced - Teri volunteered to replace it with a sliding door - the Board agreed that we will pursue this plan with a budget of \$200
- **Ring Gate needs a new wheel:** Phil replaced the wheel! Diane will submit receipts to Irina for reimbursement
- **Ring Painting:** *Teri will include plea for help in an email to members and on FB groups, Diane will paint as she can*
- **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*
- **Ring Repair -**
 - Tyler said that he would be willing to drag the ring when he mows the lawn
 - Rory talked to the Judd's who referred us to someone else to get a quote for re-surfacing the ring
 - Jen will get info from Bisbee's about how they put in footing for a ring - Teri will accompany if possible
 - Teri will talk to her excavator about doing a sample hole and coming up with possible costs - then the subcommittee will arrange to meet at the grounds with the excavator
 - Rory and Teri will form a subcommittee to collect information and submit a proposal to the Board - Diane Miller might join?
 - Jen will look for dimensions of the ring
 - Goal is to have a proposal put together by 9/1/2025

- *Rental of our grounds - Make available for weddings? Board agreed we should discuss this further in future meetings*
- *Jump Storage plan?*
- *New sign some day? Sign at Route 9?*
- *Consider building a pavilion and/or stalls?*

Past Events:

- Fourth of July parade - We had 3 horses & riders and 3 walkers representing the club - it went well, except for the truck following the horses that was beeping its horn & the entrance was very narrow to get into - Jen will provide feedback to the parade committee
- Games in Goshen July 10th
 - Attendance was a little low - The Board will distribute flyers to post so that we can get more participants

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

- July 24th Last Games in Goshen Night
- July 27th DAR - Diane Merritt is Lead
- August 23rd Hawley Trail Ride & Optional Camping Overnight - Teri is Lead and will check in with Bob Root about details
- September 21 Northfield Trail Ride - Diane Merritt is Lead
- Board Meeting September 17
- Board Meeting October 15
- 4H Fun Day October 19
- End of Year Meeting TBA November

RIBBONS:

- Rory was thinking that perhaps we should have prizes with logo stickers on them instead of ribbons - Rory will cost out getting items instead of ribbons
 - 36 brushes - \$.60/per
- Cost of the ribbons from last year was \$900 (covered 4 nights)

Event Options yet to be scheduled

- *Paint and Sip, horse themed (Alex Sprague could teach) - Teri will send information to the Board about the details - we may do this next winter*
- *Clinics*
- *Seminars*
 - *What's in that hay? Poulin?*
 - *Estate Planning for your horse?*
- *Fall ride around property*
- *Haunted Trail Fundraiser*
- *Lake Dennison Ride*

Other

- MA Farm Bureau is having a Summer Social tomorrow night 7/17. They have asked people to register but all are welcome. Information was sent via email.
- *Do we need a policy and procedure to address lameness and maltreatment when this is witnessed at any of our events? If so, let's create a sub-committee to draft one to present to the rest of the Board*

Next Meetings:

- **AUGUST 20th 7:00 at Diane Merritt's**