

HCRC Board Meeting
September 17, 2025 Final

Italics = Not discussed in this meeting

Participants: *Teri Bullis, Diane Merritt, Irina Scully, Jennifer Biggie-Peotter, Diane Miller, Molly McCutcheon*

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:

- September Minutes Approved

Donations:

- *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 - 62 Members
- Jen updated and labeled appropriate email list on spreadsheet for sending out notices about events, etc. - Teri used the wrong list for the last mailing - Jen will provide the correct spreadsheet name for email notifications of events
- Survey:
 - 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
- 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 will forward all of our event announcements to Hazel
 - Barre Riding and Driving Club - Diane will forward all of our event announcements to Lynne Goodnow
 - Diane Miller will forward announcement for next event to local barns (Fullers, Carriers, Raymond)

Board Vacancies:

- Molly McCutcheon is willing to join the Board as a Member-At-Large - we will vote her in as soon as we can achieve a quorum of 7 members of the club

Treasurer's Report:

- Income: YTD \$4,600.77
- Expenses: YTD \$5,654.12

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

- None noted

Bylaws Committee:

- Bylaws Committee - Teri, Jen, Irina & Diane Merritt will meet again on Monday 9/29 at 7:00 at Teri's house

Advertising & Promotion:

- FB Promotion Subcommittee (Jen, Teri, and Rory)
 - Created standard protocol for posting events on FB
 - Created a deadline of April 1st for nailing down details of all events for the year
 - Add barn managers to our general email distribution
 - Create email list of all of our contacts for email distribution
- The Board agreed that we should identify other organizations who might be willing to share our events with their email lists
 - Hess McWilliams when we have events related to equine health
 - Horse boarding farms
 - Nancy Carrier
 - Kate Raymond
 - Lise Krieger - New England Saddle Fitter

Grounds Business:

- **Improvements - Pavilion? Fair Season Tent?**
- **Porta-Potty:** Can we install a composting toilet?
 - Molly will research whether a composting toilet would be legally allowed
- **Lawnmowing:** Going well! Tyler sent bills and Irina has processed them through July. Irina will let Jen know if we have received any additional bills, and Jen will email Rory to ask Tyler to clarify if he has continued to mow despite the drought
- **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:** Teri found a door panel and will pick it up on Friday and then install via sliding barn door hardware
- **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 -**
 - Teri and Diane Miller met with Teri's excavator at the grounds to determine how much it might cost to re-surface the ring. The minimum quote was \$18,000 for materials and an additional \$22,000 for labor = \$40k
- *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:

- July 24th Last Games in Goshen Night
- July 27th DAR - Diane Merritt is Lead
- August 23rd Hawley Trail Ride & Optional Camping Overnight

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

- September 21- DATE CHANGED TO 10/5 Northfield Trail Ride - Diane Merritt is Lead
 - Jen posted on FB
 - Diane has heard from 3 people interested in participating
- Board Meeting October 14 (Note this is a TUESDAY)
- 4H Fun Day October 19
- End of Year Meeting **November 15**

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*
- 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

Other

- MA Farm Bureau
- *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:

- **OCTOBER 14th, 7:00 at Diane Merritt's**