

# Connecticut Equine Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes for December 1, 20009

### **ATTENDING:**

Amy Stegall, Ruth Beardsley, Meg Sautter, Leslie Lewis, Diane Ciano, Jan Collins, Shirley Vicchitto, Steve Vicchitto, Doug Dubitsky, Daisy Gmitter, Jenifer Nadeau, Laurianne Goulet, Pam Weed, Debbie Sommers, Debbie O'Donnell and Melanie Langan

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was held at the Northeast Utilities Building in Berlin, CT. Leslie Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:20PM.

### **1) Review of last minutes meetings and minor corrections:**

Correct name under Membership Appointments is: **William MacLaren**.

Correct spelling of DEP address is 17 **Elm** Street (not Ham)

### **2) Update on progress of membership appointments to the council:**

Established in this council to date is: President of the CT Horse Council, **Amy Stegall** First Congressional District - **Meg Sautter**, Second Congressional District - **William MacLaren**, Third Congressional District - **Ruth Beardsley** and **Leslie Lewis** of the CT Forest & Parks Association. **Laurie Giannotti** – DEP Greenways and Trails Coordinator is the liaison for DEP and the EAC. There are two remaining positions that the EAC is waiting on for appointments from the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Districts.

Diane reports she has sent a letter to her representative (Senator Colapietro) asking for help in contacting Senator Looney for the 5<sup>th</sup> District appointment.

Discussion was to have Amy contact Mr. MacLaren by letter, welcoming him to the council and asking him to become an active member through participation in the 2010 meetings. MacLaren has known about his appointment for a year and was waiting for contact. His name will be put on the e-mail list.

### **3) EAC Logo:**

Leslie Lewis' daughter will work on the logo over the holidays

Diane reported that contacts for help in creating a logo has failed. She presented some new artwork that could possibly be used in the logo. Leslie Lewis will give the samples to her daughter. Laurianne Goulet also took a copy and will get back to the council if she has anyone who can help. Jenifer Nadeau will have Leslie Alexander work on the logo also.

### **4) Website discussion:**

Diane Ciano presented a sample for the website, passed around to all present. Meeting locations and times would be posted as well as whether or not the meeting was open to the public or an executive closed session.

**5) Lost Silvermine Horse Camp:**

Resolution and paperwork update. Soon will have the project number and proper signatures it will be ready to go.

- 6) Next meeting date:** Dates for EAC meetings for 2010. Every other month next meeting would be February 16, 2010 then April 20, 2010, June 15, 2010, September 21, 2010 and November 16, 2010. All meetings commence at 6:00PM with a light dinner provided. Small donation for food. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

**7) New Business:**

1. Diane reported on the Larkin Bridle Trail incident of October 11<sup>th</sup>. : Serious accident on the Larkin trail spooked the rider and quad riders saw them fall off and did not stop to help. Woman had a broken arm, cracked rib with no insurance. Two DEP officers were met on the Larkin trail this past weekend on quads and were aware of the incident. VHP members spoke with the two officers on Quads - Officer Keith Williams and Officer Shaw and asked them if CHC could have a contact number for anyone that wanted to report any information. We were told that the Horse Council could post the reward and that the number that people could call would be the 24 hour DEP Emergency Dispatch number 860-424-333.

Discussion was that CHC would like to post a \$500.00 Reward to help find the person(s) responsible and to inform Tammy Talbot, Laurie Giannotti, Nathan Hale and the Dept. Chief of Law Enforcement so that everyone would know what was going on.

2. Diane reported that Representative Hovey was in contact with her regarding the Trails Preservation Bill. She would like the Council's recommendation to add 2 or 3 trails, parks or forests to be added. Jan mentioned to add Pachaug State and Shenipsit State Forest. Another important one would be Machimoodus State Park/Sunrise Resort Diane also mention Roraback WMA (deed mentions equestrian use) and possibly Nassahegon SF which the VHP has been exploring this year and have found many nice tail systems. Mohawk SF is also another possible one for the bill.

**7) Old Business:**

Diane forgot to send a thank you to Tom Nosal with a letter from EAC for his work on the maps for the State of Connecticut State Forests. Secondly the issue of the well getting closed in the Natchaug, Diane will send a letter asking for an amendment to reopen the well for no potable use only to Scott Dawley.

**8) Goals for 2010:**

Discussion about researching trails for funding, asking for help in either walking the trails or riding and making recommendations i.e.: high, medium or low. Point system will be explored in a meeting in January advisory committee only. Outside comments would be solicited if it be known that they are familiar with the trails under consideration.