

**Pennsylvania Equine Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Final Minutes
January 21, 2017
Pennsylvania Farm Show Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Charles Van Auken at 11:07 a.m.

2. **Roll Call :**
 - A. **Board of Directors Present:** Charles Van Auken, President; Bud Wills, Vice-President; Edith Ryan, Treasurer; Aleta Seifert, Corresponding Secretary; Jeanne Askey, Linda Golden, Sharon Kessler, Mike Kraft, Guy Seifert, Skip Seifert, Ann Swinker, Elaine Winters

 - B. **Board of Directors by Teleconference:** Judy Cole, Donna Foulk, Amanda Gerner, Helene McKernan, Desilene Phillips, Capri Stiles-Mikesell

 - C. **Board of Directors Absent:** Gail Eichelberger, Rick Shiffler, Burt Staniar

 - D. **Guests:** Gwen Wills

3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Minutes of the December 9, 2016 meeting were emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review prior to the meeting. See attached. *A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Linda Golden, seconded by Bud Wills. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.*

4. **Treasurer’s Report** – Edith Ryan reported. A Financial Statement was emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review. See attached. Beginning balance December 1, 2016 was \$23,478.86. Total deposits for December were \$6,117.29; total payments were \$4,938.75. Ending balance December 31, 2016 was \$24,657.40. *A motion to accept the treasurer’s report subject to audit was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Mike Kraft. Motion passed.* The 2017 budget was presented. *A motion to approve the 2017 budget was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Bud Wills. Following discussion of various line items, a vote was called and the motion passed.* Helene asked if money was sent to the Pennsylvania Equine Foundation for the scholarship fund. Edith said a check is ready to be mailed to Elaine Bish, President of the Foundation.

5. **Corresponding Secretary’s Report** – Aleta Seifert – Received a “thank you” from the AAEP Foundation for our \$500 contribution and a thank you from the Friends of the Farm Show for our \$850 sponsorship for the Mike Waugh Celebrity Draft Horse Team Driving Competition. State Representative Kate Klunk from District 169 for York Co.

drove for our sponsorship and placed 20th. Also received a request from the American Horse Council Foundation for help with finding funding for the National Economic Impact Study in 2017.

- 6. Foundation Report** – Jeanne Askey reported. The general account balance is \$13,986.77; scholarship account balance is \$566.46. Edith mentioned she will be sending \$543.23 in donations to PEF. Elaine Bish has indicated she wants to step down as President of the Foundation.

7. Old Business

- A. PA Farm Show ELC Report** – Charlie Van Auken /Skip Seifert – Skip reported five people are definitely needed to run the ELC. Dave Rohrbach from Bee Tree Trail provided a draft horse for one of the display horses. Mike thanked Bob Sneed and Charlie for being there to help Skip. There was a photo contest at the 2016 Farm Show and two pictures taken at the ELC placed 1st and 3rd. Skip mentioned Bill Achor of York Ag Products brings horse stall odor eraser product for the ELC, and an ad will be placed in our newsletter. Mike mentioned there was \$344 in signs sold, one family plus membership, and \$383 in donations.
- B. KILE Horse Show** – Skip Seifert – Rory Buckwalter has resigned from the KILE open horse show. PEC sponsored five classes again in 2016. Edith mentioned the classes were held late at night, and she put in a lot of time to determine the winners. There was some discussion about forming a marketing/branding committee; this will be discussed under New Business.
- C. PEC Members Trail Ride** – Bud Wills – Currently the ride is full and a waiting list has been started. It was suggested doing a ride in the east; Bud is talking with Mike Kraft and Jim Robinson about where to possibly do it in the east. Bud suggested making a trail ride committee to look into and handle details of future rides.
- D. Needs Assessment Study** – Ann Swinker – There were 450 responses to PEC's needs assessment survey out of 2500 viable email addresses. Top issues of concern are land use, keeping trails open, health issues, and zoning. She sent a list to the Board members of responses of people who are interested in getting involved with PEC. Ann would like to do an abstract of the survey at the Equine Science Society meeting and submit an article for other states and universities to use the information. *A motion to allow Ann Swinker to publish the needs assessment article in the Equine Science Society proceeding was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Guy Seifert. Motion passed.* Ann passed around an example of land use zoning issues.

8. New Business

- A. Election of the Executive Committee** – Charles VanAuken – There are four non-elected-officer members to be voted on. Bud asked if there is anyone who would like to be on the committee. Capri said she would like to be considered. Current members on the committee who would like to continue are Linda Golden, Mike Kraft and Elaine Winters. An effort was made to contact Burt Staniar who was not present to see if he wanted to stay on the committee for 2017; being unable to contact him, this item was tabled. The current committee will continue in the interim.

- B. Committee Assignments** – Charles VanAuken – Suggested adding Marketing Committee; Charlie assigned Guy Seifert as Chair; member: Sharon Kessler. Charlie suggested adding a Show & Breed Committee – Guy offered to chair; Capri will sit on the committee. Donna raised concern about animal welfare/rescue issues and is willing to sit on a committee to address these issues. Guy will address under New Business issue regarding zoning issues. Ann asked that Equine Welfare committee be changed to Equine Health Regulatory. Reminder that the free conference call feature is available for committee meetings, also.

- C. EXPO/VIP Night 2017** – Skip Seifert -- Aleta and Linda got a list together to send out invitations. Linda will send to legislators and aides. Gwen will send to agency people. Skip has been in contact with the caterer; menu will be changed to stay within same price range; tickets will be given out for drinks the same as last year. Anyone who sends an invitation by email must send names and email address to Aleta to add to her master list. Invitation is for invitee and one guest. Bud asked for ideas for speaker for VIP night; suggestions were offered. Ann mentioned she needs panel members for PEC equine issues presentation in Lecture Hall B. Also, Capri has taken over scheduling speakers for and monitoring Lecture Hall B. Scholarship presentations will be done.

9. Committee Reports

- A. Advertising** – Bud Wills: Advertising is working well.
- B. Collegiate Membership** – Burt Staniar
- C. Education Grant Program** – Donna Foulk -- Two grants were given out; part of the requirement is to report back. She has not received anything. Skip mentioned the 4H students sent a ribbon and picture.
- D. Electronic Director's Manual** – Helene McKernan – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. Aleta has updated some things which Helene needs to add to the e-manual. Wants to see how we can improve our website development to make updates easier. Suggested getting someone more knowledgeable about when someone makes changes that it also changes in the e-manual.
- E. Equine Learning Center** – Mike Kraft -- Reported above.

- F. Equine Health Regulatory – Ann Swinker – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. In less than a week after the new congress was back, the horse “soring” bill on Tennessee Walking Horses and Racking Horses passed rapidly. The Safeguard American Food Exports Act was re-introduced January 10 which would in effect prohibit the slaughter of horses in the US and the export of horses for slaughter. Ann also reported about a letter which the American Horse Council sent to USDA with comments regarding proposed new rules for Equine Infectious Anemia monitoring and response protocols.
- G. Facebook – Amanda Gerner – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. We have had good responses from posts; Ann is keeping Penn State extension information on the page; from Dec. 23-Jan. 19, number of people reached was 8,991; “Pete” from Bee Tree Trail was the most popular post at beginning of Farm Show.
- H. Legislation – Linda Golden – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. Linda reported she put on our website the laws regarding unwanted and re-wanted horse issues.
- I. Membership – Desi Phillips – Report emailed to Board. See attached. Number of members changed from 373 to 426 since report was sent. She asked how many Board members belong to a PEC county chapter. Also asked how many newsletters are sent to business members and suggested sending more.
Following discussion, a motion to have Desi Phillips contact business members to see how many extra newsletters they would like to hand out was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Mike Kraft. Motion passed.
- J. Newsletter – Judy Cole – No report.
- K. Nominations – Bud Wills -- No report.
- L. PennAg Liaison – Skip Seifert/Ann Swinker -- Skip volunteered at their food booth at Farm Show.
- M. Policies and Procedures – Bud Wills -- Helene is still working on the latest version.
- N. Scholarship – Rick Shiffler -- Caleigh Anderson sent her information to meet the scholarship requirements. Karoline Kent is a second year recipient.
- O. Signs – Skip Seifert – Have a good stock of signs. Aleta reported we’re getting more orders through PayPal than the mail at this time.
- P. Sponsorship – Skip Seifert/Mike Kraft – Letters will be sent out.
- Q. State Directors Chair – Charles Van Auken – Shared the number of 2016 members per region and where heaviest areas are. Suggested having a board seat for each region voted on by members from that region. *A motion for Charlie Van Auken and Bud Wills to set up a committee to progress with the idea of having a board seat for each region, make an assessment and come back to the Board for a vote was made by Mike Kraft, seconded by Skip Seifert. Motion passed.* Charlie, Bud and Skip will be on the committee to discuss this further.

Bud also explained a program to try to increase membership; this will be discussed further by the committee.

- R. Trails – Bud Wills – Report was emailed to Board. See attached. Attended a PGC meeting yesterday (Jan. 20) where Sunday hunting was again discussed. Discussed doing something at Expo to talk to people about this issue. Also, permit for secondary users may also be considered again.

10. Additional Business

- A. Charlie was contacted for a possible speaker for a conference in State College on March 4. This date conflicts with the Expo; Charlie will get back to them.
- B. Charlie mentioned PEC’s 30th Anniversary will be in 2018 and we need to start thinking about what we might do.
- C. Skip mentioned he has a chance to buy a used reconditioned computer for \$150.00 for the ELC. *A motion to allow Skip Seifert to purchase a used reconditioned computer for \$150.00 for the Equine Learning Center was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Elaine Winters. Motion passed.*

10. Meeting Dates

- (1) March 11 – State College – Hoss’s Restaurant 11:00 am
- (2) May 13 – PA Farm Show Building, Harrisburg 11:00am
- (3) August 15 – Ag Progress Days, State College 5:30 pm
- (4) November 3 & 4 – Annual Meeting/Issues Forum, Super 8 Hotel, State College

12. Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Aleta Seifert.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Winters

Elaine Winters
Acting Recording Secretary