

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 15, 2008

There are 10 new members since the last meeting.

Trish read a letter received from the SBWA, thanking the AVTA for the contribution of \$575.00.

Tory Januik is working with Audrey on updating the website. She has suggested posting portions of the newsletter on the website. Gael will send the newsletter to Tory a few days prior to sending it out to the membership, allowing Tory time to utilize the newsletter as she sees fit for the website. Gael will contact Tory in order to determine what information she needs to coordinate the newsletter and the website.

Winter Doldrums party:

The date of the party is Feb. 23. Gael will contact Kathy at Hillbilly Hall to arrange the details. Gael G., Gail C., and Pat Flannigan will meet together to plan the auction. Information about the auction and the donation of items will appear in the next newsletter.

Update on speed signs:

Trish reported that she and George (from the Township Road Dept.) spent an afternoon marking the sites on Township roads where she wanted the signs, and the signs were installed the next day. They are on Van Lieus Rd., Rocktown Rd., Linvale Rd., Stony Brook Rd., Cider Mill Rd., and Lindberg Rd. Trish will designate on which County Roads she wants to have the remaining six signs installed.

Cindy said that it is important to thank any motorist who slows down for horses or stops to allow horses the right of way.

New Business:

1. Trails closed until the ground freezes.

2. Gael G. and Kris DuFosse conducted a horse census this year, and found that the census (although incomplete), counted 530 horses. Joan will check on the farms that have an incomplete count, or those that are missing, on the census. When it is completed, Gael will publish it.

3. The Amwell Equestrian Center has requested that students taking lessons be allowed, with the supervision of an instructor, to use the AVTA trails. After discussion, the Board decided that Di and Gael would write up a proposed plan for student riders and send it to the Board members for further discussion and approval, after which a policy about students using trails can be agreed upon at a future meeting.

4. Gael reported that the East Amwell Township Open Space Commission has used the AVTA maps and information in order to qualify for the PIG Program.

5. Trish reported on a meeting she attended about the NJ Horse Expo, to be held at the fairgrounds on May 17 & 18. The idea of the Expo is to bring the horse community in contact with the commercial community, and to make the horse industry more visible in NJ. The Expo committee hopes to fill both days with demonstrations, for example, a color guard, parade of breeds, lectures, parade of disciplines, with a "key entertainment" for each day.

They are seeking ideas for activities. Gael suggested contacting the people from the Medieval Times, or Renaissance Faire. Mary suggested a polo exhibition. Blaine suggested a farrier "shoe-off". Jen F. suggested a horse chiropractic demonstration. The Expo committee meets the first Monday of the month at the Chamber of Commerce Building, Rt. 31. Information will appear in the next newsletter, and the poster with information will appear on the website.

6. Trish reported that the Central Jersey Horse Trail Coalition has a website for their calendar of events at www.my.calendars.net/rtacalendar

7. Blaine distributed a handout listing suggested hiking (and riding) activities for AVTA members. Blaine would like to present the list at the Doldrums Party to find out if there is any interest among the membership. The list will appear on the website, asking for input as far as participation, organization, and leadership.

Trish asked Blaine to write a blurb for the newsletter about the World Series of Birding.

8. Di reported that she will be unable to organize the Hunter Pace in 2009, and asked for a volunteer who will work with her and Audrey on the 2008 Hunter Pace in order to learn how to run the event in 2009. Jen F. said she might be interested.