

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION
May 20, 2008**

The meeting of the Amwell Valley Trail Association was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at Joan Sank's house. It was called to order by the president, Trish Buckwalter, at 7:30 pm.

Present: Trish, Gael, Jen T., Jen E., Mary, Joan, Steve, Blain, Di, Gail C., Phil.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Taxes have been mailed. The revised budget has been emailed out. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Gael reported that people are renewing on line before applications have been sent out. Eighty more identification tags have been ordered.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Di received an email from Princeton Premier asking to be included into the Business Professional Registry 2008-2009, but the Board decided to ignore it.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The revised Treasurer's report has been sent by Jen via email.
2. Joan has not found a location for the Winter Doldrums party as yet.
3. Blaine reported that the bird count went well with lots of sightings, including a Virginia rail and clapper rail. He said that approximately 30% of the identifications were based on calls. The bird count should be done in early spring before the trees leaf out so that the birds are easily visible.
4. It was reported that the Carter's property is available for AVTA use. The proper trail is across North Hill Road.
5. The new owners of the property adjoining Centre Ridge welcome AVTA members to continue using those trails.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Horse Expo - Trish reported that Lisa Hall resigned shortly before the Expo. Trish joined the committee to make up the schedule. Attendance was light. The affair lacked a feature presentation. The footing in the ring is poor, too deep and wet, so that some of the presentations were canceled. If anyone has any suggestions for future Expo's, contact Trish.
2. Horse census - Gael reported that in a census taken 18 years ago, there were 362 horses in East Amwell Twp. Gael wanted to re-do the census, and has found 591 horses in the township at this time. The census is being conducted for the township and for the South Branch Watershed Assn. The Watershed Assn. is interested in the number of horses in regard to the Manure Management Program that the State will eventually be instituting. Trish said that, according to Rutgers University, the Manure Management Program will probably not be up and running for one to two years. The state will be concerned with farms having more than 8 animal units (a horse = one unit). Farms with 8 or more animal units will be required to register a plan for manure removal; those without appropriate plans will be fined. Rutgers University will help with the plans. (Bob Mickle, Rutgers Agricultural Agent, phone 908-788-1339; Hunterdon County, fax 908-806-4735.)
In regard to the horse census, the Board has agreed that we can tell the Watershed Assn. how many horses are in the township, but it has decided that AVTA should not be involved in reporting how many horses each individual owner has.
3. The Somerset Pony Club contacted Gael, asking if our membership mailing list could be made available to them for their fundraiser ride. After discussion, the Board agreed to do so.
4. AVTA Hunter Pace will be held on October 5. Di cannot be in charge this year, and needs to find a volunteer who will work with her in order to learn what needs to be done, and who will then take charge of organizing the fundraiser.
5. Gael reported that she no longer wishes to do the newsletter, and needs someone else to collect information and organize the newsletter. Jen Fisher said that she might be interested. Heidi Jensen is interested in being the editor of the newsletter. The newsletter is necessary to continue, at the very least on a quarterly basis.
6. Tory Januik is doing the website.
7. Trish reported that Susan Anderson (908-534-5788) called about organizing an Animal Response Team for emergencies. On June 8 there will be a large animal drill held at the Fairgrounds. They are looking for large farms to provide room for horses in case of an emergency, and for people with trailers willing to provide transportation. Informational flyers will be available in the future on this matter.
8. Amwell Valley Hounds Hunter Pace will be on June 8.
9. Roadside clean-up - Blaine distributed a hand-out of the article that will be published in the VIP and in the Hunterdon Democrat.

The meeting of AVTA was closed, and the meeting of the CFWMF was opened.

Gail C. reported that there are 5 scholarship applicants. One will be chosen, and a letter will be sent to the other four, encouraging them to try again next year for a scholarship. Alyssa Oman and Devin Doherty, former scholarship recipients, have sent letters asking that their scholarships be continued.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting, July 15, 2008.