

## **NEPtHA General Membership Meeting, Boxboro, Ma. November 22 2009**

Meeting called to order by Karen Benson at 12:36 pm

### **Secretary Report,**

Was read by Jac Cunningham a motioned to accept by Kathy and seconded by Cher

### **Treasurers Report**

To date the club has in the account \$21,010.16 not including checks that have not cleared, and Kate has Membership checks she needs to deposit.

Mike explained that the perspective budget is done but needs to be finalized and sent to nationals, after it is finalized it will be posted, Mike did a quick run through on the listed items and items that need to be fixed before sending them to the board and to Nationals .

Cher made a motion to accept and seconded by Kate

### **Old Business**

Equine affair,

Was busy and not allot of spending, booth cost was \$560.00, purchases were \$400.00+ the booth made after expenses we made approx. \$400.00 the booth made \$244.00 in memberships, 5 new memberships, 2 peddler subscriptions.

Jan went over the voting process she explained that she got two nomination forms back in the mail and got more at the shows, we had 3 nominations for pres. 3 nominations for v. pres, 7 for sec, 6 for tres, Jan was excused to count the ballots with Lee McKenna, Jonathan Blake & Ashley Hair.

Mike commented on the size of the shows and the atmosphere has changed allot in the past years, the judges made allot of comments and mentioned how much help we had at the shows.

Mike explained how we are going to try to make it more affordable for the members because of the layoffs nationally. Concerns were expressed by Clair Sparks and there was discussion on keeping the costs down. Clair expressed that one of the things that NEPtHA did was a pot luck supper at the shows. The problem is that the shows are running so late on Saturdays because of huge gymkhana turn out.

We had more family oriented events and the kids are hanging out longer at the ring as are the parents. Thing such as the dog races and chuck a duck events.

Karen explained that Nationals is getting more and more involved with NEPtHA and helping us with any information we need and that information that we were getting from the Area Director was not always accurate, Nationals DOES in fact want the clubs to communicate with them.

Karen talked about the Convention and opening up a network with the other charters for show dates to assure that everyone is helping everyone else. She also spoke about the people she had met at the Convention and how extremely helpful they were. All the information that is readily available to the clubs that we were told does not exist.

It was discussed about contacting a motel about discount pricing and Karen said we did this and it will be put on the website for future shows.

The Snips Beware Trophy was discussed and it was told to the members that we were giving the trophy back to avoid further issues on this matter. It was argued that donated trophies are just that by Clair and

Jonathan and they thought that the trophy should not be returned, when something is DONATED it becomes the property of the club. The board explained that this will only leave the club open for further scrutinizing and we should close the matter and move on.

The trophy will be sent back registered mail, signature required and the club will pick up the award for the High Point Youth in Horsemanship and the award will be renamed.

### **Banquet,**

Cher Lago has all the info on the banquet, it will be at the Holiday Inn Express in Waterbury CT, rooms are \$99.00, 25 for Friday and 50 for Saturday, there is the CoCo Key Water Resort right ion the motel for the kids, there is a bar and places to eat and plenty to do to relax. They are giving us a discount price of \$15.00. For a day pass,

Cher explained the prices and the arrangements the rooms are by the pool with balconies, you can get 2 double beds or a king and a pull out, we are **NOT** going to be charged for the Banquet Hall, Ellen's room, and the Registration Room, they have as buffet breakfast in the morning for those staying over after the banquet, under 12 is free with an adult \$14.95 for adults. All this info will be posted on the website

We are going with a buffet the prices will be set when the contract is signed. The entrées were discussed what they were offering for main courses, veggies, deserts, beverages.

Cher was wondering if Darrel Bilky will be coming, Jeff and his wife. The tentative date is Feb. 20. They will set up a cash bar we need to pay for the bartender and gratuity. Karen and Cher will firm up the date and price.

Motion made to have the banquet at Holiday Inn made by Paula seconded by Jen.

Year end awards were discussed and sponsorships , there are four sponsors to date and Jac is working on trying to defer some of the awards cost to the club. Sponsors will receive a web ad on the NEPtHA website with a link back to their web site, credit in the banquet booklet under the division sponsored.

### **Website..**

Year end points are posted and on the site, they are in at nationals and were on time and will be posted a.s.a.p. Pula mentioned that the classifieds were coming up with an error page. Jen is going to check it out to see what is wrong.

May points were discussed they cant be opened in the file they are in.

Jen would like to refresh the look of the site for 2010. Cost was discussed and Jen said it was not necessary.

### **Queens money owed**

The amount of money given by the club and the youth will be given when the crown and sash are returned. The chair person for queens committee will be appointed as a group, this will come in the next few meetings. The process and regulations will be re vamped and made more comfortable for the contestants. It is thought that the rules in place put too much pressure on the contestants.

Jess explained the qualifications for the funds for the world show, and that she will no longer will be the youth advisor. She explained that if you want this money you must volunteer at the shows.

Jess told us an idea for 2010, "is your pinto green" to recycle the bottles and cans for the club, a mother in her barn will recycle these cans for the club. We will check with Jeff on being able to do this when he is invited to the banquet.

Jen asked about the Nutrina money back program and Jonathan said that he had no returns for the members.

### **New business**

Voting..... Results as follows :

**President** the following had votes : Karen Benson, Jay Nigren & Kate Hair Karen won with 38 votes

**Vice President** Mike Favaloro, Karen Benson & Jan Foster, Mike won with 40 votes

**Secretary** had , Jac Cunninham, Kate Hair, Ann Digivoni, Kyle Alexander, Kate O'Hair, Stacy , Julie and Craig McCaskey & Sue Favalora, Jac won with 14 votes and accepted the position.

**Treasurer** had votes for Ann DiGiovanni, Howard Sparks, Tina Cabigting, Mike Favaloro, Jac Cunningham & Judy Swift Ann DiGiovanni won with 14 votes and accepted via e-mail.

**State Directors:** Mass. Patty D'Anna, Paula Laughlin, & Jan Foster Patty D'Anna with 28 with votes  
CT. Leslie Alexander, Kim Panbera & Jen Musto Jen Musto won with 36 votes  
NH. Kathy Gallagher won  
RI. No votes  
VT. No votes  
ME. Tom Melanson who accepted via e-mail

Karen appointed Paula Laughlin and Clair Sparks as a Directors at Large at the meeting.

Karen asked for committee volunteers and sign them up, they will be posted on the web site as soon as possible.

Scott Alexander brought up that a president can not run more than 2 years consecutive, he explained that there was no vote on any bi law changes and the 2005 rules state that you can only run for two years, it was explained that nationals has all the documents and it has been posted on the site for **FOUR YEARS and approved by Nationals in 2006, 07, 08 & 09**. Scott could not produce any documents showing motions and votes on this matter, he stated the years they were done and it was double checked right at that time in the minutes by Jac and nothing was found. So the bi laws on the website, that were in the round up, and have been approved by Nationals will stand.

Jan and Karen had these facts checked by an attorney prior to the election due to anonymous calls to the Nomination Committee. The Bi Laws and Constitution states that anyone can run for any amount of time as the members continue to vote that person in.. Nationals attorneys and a legal ruling has been done and we will stand by the document Mike made a recommendation that Scott bring all the issues to the next meeting along with written documents to prove his theory..

Clair Sparks broke in and made a motion that the election be accepted as it stands with the exception of those having to be notified, seconded by Paula

Mike brought up a bi law that needs to be amended it was passed by the BoD and will go out to the members to be voted on at the spring meeting.

Clair made the point that all treasurer reports should be audited, this is the way this was done in the past years before the books were handed over. We explained that when the new vote came in two years ago and we inherited this, this is what we received and there were no funds available to have an audit done.

We explained that this is going to be done at the exchange of each treasurer in the future now that the club is getting back on its feet..

Karen appointed committees and we will put the committee list on line,

Clair sparks commented that she thinks that anyone that makes an income from the club should be a member, it was explained that this might be construed as a conflict of interest. If they choose to join NEPtHA it should be of their own accord.

Motion to adjourn by Karen seconded by Jan. Approx. 2:45pm