

**EQUESTRIAN COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – September 21st, 2010**

The Tewksbury Township Equestrian Committee met on the above date in the Municipal Meeting Hall, 60 Water Street, Mountainville, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m.

Present: Patty Clucas (PC), Don Broughton (DB), Todd Brooks (TB), and Ilaria Borghese (IB).

Absent: Dana Desiderio (DD).

Public: No one from the public was in attendance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT

Opening Meeting

DB opened the meeting. Minutes from the July, 20th, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Topics Discussed at this Meeting

Annual Budget

There continue to be no funds available for this Committee. DB initiated a budget that will be proposed for next year. This budget is to include but not be limited to 1) \$1,000 for maintenance of jumps and footing at Christie Hoffman Park (to include but not be limited to regular cleaning of the water jump, adding stone dust to the take-off and landing bases for each jump, and clearing shrubs and weeds from jump perimeters), and 2) \$1,000 for design, printing, and dissemination of informational materials related to equestrian activities of Tewksbury Township. DB will prepare a formal budget to present to the Township for approval for next year.

Additional Committee Members

DB continues to correspond with Roberta and Shana regarding the acceptance of additional Committee members. Originally, this Committee was made up of seven volunteers, and though we have pending applications, Roberta has stated that this Committee is allowed only 5 members. DB reiterated that this Committee is made up of “volunteers”, who are asked to do increasingly more work with regard to horse- and rider-related safety issues (e.g., assisting with clearing jump take-offs and landings). Clearly, additional Committee members would only help to assist with Committee duties. DB has asked that the Township reconsider allowing additional members to our Committee, and is waiting to hear from Roberta regarding a possible Township meeting date.

Equestrian Committee Brochure

The Equestrian Committee Brochure was completed, and a high-resolution PDF version was e-mailed to Shana for printing. Once the brochures are printed, the Committee members will disseminate them throughout the Township as previously discussed. In addition, the brochure is now available through the Township website.

Christie Hoffman Park

Hayden Hull, the DPW, and the members of this Committee continue to monitor the park for any maintenance or safety issues. The park, trails, and jumps are presently in good condition but will need continuous maintenance (e.g., trimming around the jumps, additives to the water jump, stone dust for jump take-offs and landings). Since jump and trail maintenance is a horse- and rider-safety issue, significant time and additional funds are needed to properly address any upcoming concerns. DB will include the need for these funds in the budget proposal.

Miscellaneous

There was discussion on identifying the main purpose of this Committee. In general, the purpose of the Equestrian Committee is to: 1) identify and maintain the safety of horse and rider, 2) build community relations between equestrians and non-equestrians, and 3) provide the Township with expertise on equine- and equestrian-related matters.

TB continues to research equestrian committees and similar organizations in other townships to look at ways in which they are representing their equine communities. TB will compile a more organized list for the next meeting.

IB has secured a list of Township residents and will send this list out to Committee members to identify horse owners. Once this group is identified, IB and the Committee members will generate a questionnaire that helps to gather information on numbers, interests, and concerns of this population. This Committee will begin to look at ways to connect with the Township's equestrians in order to build community rapport.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. by motion of DB and seconded by PC.

The next meeting of the Equestrian Committee will be November 16th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ilaria Borghese