

# Northern Saddle Club Meeting Minutes

June 5 2013

Members Present: Geri, Erin, Anna, Gail, Ron, Reka

## Called to Order at 7:09pm

Finalized Agenda

Items added to the agenda- Speakers, Rent grounds for wedding, Concession for Schooling show, Extend cover on barn A. Minutes from last meeting approved as read. Erin/Gail. Carried

## Treasurers Report:

Motion to accept the Treasurers report at presented. Gail/Anna. Carried

## Correspondence:

Erin contacted the high schools about carpentry program tackling a project at the grounds, it was too late for this year we can ask next year, can also ask the college.

Request received from Tom Kirk to purchase NSC membership without HCBC membership as he will not be riding, but would like to be a voting member. Discussed and approved by club, Erin will advise him.

## New Dates:

No New Dates

## Old Business:

**Proposal to extend the indoor-** Gail has obtained an Environmental Review application for the expansion, reviewed with Roy and has been advised that it is highly likely that the plan won't be approved as it will be too close to the river. It costs \$500 to apply so will wait to apply until we know if extending the arena in the other direction (towards round pen) would be feasible under the Business and Land Development Plan being done by Bob Yates for the BVAIA. Jane Lloyd Smith has expressed interest in taking on the indoor extension project once she has retired.

**Lease renewal letter-** Town of Smithers has advised that a lease renewal letter is not due until 6<sup>th</sup> months prior to the lease expiry date. Current lease expires September 2014 and the letter has been put in our file until March 2014. Geri will make a note to remind town to pull the letter in February 2014.

**Mowing-** Mike has completed his first mowing. It took him ten hours @ \$60/hr. For the first mowing he advised he will only be charging us for 8 hours + gst as he felt obligated to stay within the limit of \$500 per mow. He advised that 3 mowing sessions for \$500 each is not realistic, and suggested that we double our budget and he will mow at his discretion. We discussed that our initial budget of \$1500 was not a final budget, more to see what we would get for that price. Depending on the weather we realize that the grounds may need more than 3 sessions over the season. Gail will advise Mike to do the next mowing at his discretion. Owen Rowsell will be whipper-snipping this week.

## **Grounds repair-**

Erin advised that the old shavings blocks have been moved (thanks to Downey!) and the stall ends on Barn A & B have been fixed.

**Work bee-** May 26 work bee did not happen. The next work bee will be held ASAP on a midweek evening, to be called on short notice.

**Speakers** – still in progress, tabled until next meeting

### **New Business:**

**Education-** The club needs to make a priority of further education, for both riders, and the community at large. This will make us more attractive for grant writing. The club used to offer week-long horsemanship camps for kids, we will revisit a way to do this again, potentially in a one or two day format, in order to make it more attractive for volunteers and affordable for participants. We will talk to the town before they plan next year's program, and hopefully run the camps through the Town of Smithers summer program in order to take advantage of their advertising and bigger audience. Geri will ask Jane Lloyd Smith for help/feedback with planning the kid's camps.

**Saddle Club fees increasing in 2014-** At the current rate of \$40 per individual membership, we are not able to cover the costs of basic maintenance to our facilities, let alone make improvements. Currently clubs like Vanderhoof and Terrace charge a membership fee of roughly \$125-145 per voting member. In order to ensure the sustainability of the Northern Saddle Club and its facilities, we propose a rate increase to \$100 for a voting membership, along with suitable increases to family, junior, 'professional use', and drop in rates. To allow sufficient time to consider all aspects of the proposed new Fee Structure, this increase will be voted on over the course of two meetings, in September and October of 2013.

**Toilets-** The two wooden outhouses by the main ring are in serious disrepair. As they are considered non-conforming structures we are unable to improve the existing structures or replace with new wooden outhouses in the same location. Reka will speak with Bob of Action Septic and Karen of S-Quest for quotes on purchasing & maintaining verses renting portable outhouses.

### **Fundraising-**

Jill O'Neill has suggested we have a club garage sale to help raise money for new footing in the indoor arena. We decided to approach the BV Horse sale about having a saddle club table at their BV Fall horse sale, and as a club will plan a larger garage sale for spring 2014 where we rent tables to individual sellers and also collect donations for saddle club tables.

Geri suggested hosting regular Bingo nights, for example at the friendship center in Smithers. She has also applied for a gaming grant. In order to be eligible for this grant we must provide our budget from the past 2 years, as well as show that funds will be used for a 'program' example, educational series, clinics, shows, pony club etc. 'Maintaining grounds' does not qualify for the grant. Geri will review the application when resubmitting, so that it's tailored to the grant.

Other ideas – host a competitive trail ride, host a dance. We will put a call out to the NSC Facebook page for more Fundraising ideas.

**Grounds rental request for wedding-** Geri received a request to rent our grounds out for a wedding this fall, they would like to use the indoor arena for the reception. After discussion the request was denied, due to concerns over glass, footing, and liability.

**Concession** – Saturday’s schooling show does not yet have a concession. No member at the meeting was able to host the concession, request has been put out for anyone interested to contact Jill O’Neill

**Extend cover on Barn A**- Gail suggested we look into extending the roof on barn A to cover the concrete pad where the old shavings bin was located. The covered area would be used for farrier, grooming, etc. The concern is that a building permit would be required. Alternative is to install tie rings on end of Barn A. Before doing this, the electrical on the exterior wall would need to be inspected/updated.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58

Next meeting is July 3rd at the Hudsons Bay Lodge