

Natural Horsemanship Association General Meeting 2015

Date: November 20, 2015 at 1700 located at VOS Independent in Port Perry.

Present:

Lindsey Partridge (President), Sabrina Schoon (Vice President), Annette Forkun (Treasurer)

Shelley Shopsowitz, Yvonne McKinnon, Raine Wannet, Melissa Monteith, Anastasia Camera, Rick Chrysler, Carolyn Davis

Minutes:

- Board Members 2016
 - o Confirmed Board for 2016:
 - Lindsey – President
 - Sabrina – Vice President
 - Annette – Treasurer
 - Yvonne – Secretary
 - Shelley – Board member
 - Anastasia – Board member
 - Raine – Board member
 - Kim – Board member
- Financial Report: by Annette
 - o Opened with \$225 at start of year
 - o Income: \$4455
 - o Expenses: \$3878
 - o \$801 in bank less snacks for meeting
- Horse Shows:
 - o Ideas:
 - o Discussed how are we promoting natural horsemanship (nh) at the shows? Suggestions to have a demo a lunch, cut the classes that don't promote nh (for example speed).
 - o Shows need to be shorter, suggestion to combine advanced/liberty as the same class (people choose) or cut some classes
 - o Suggestion to have a tack check to ensure equipment is fair and acceptable, and a steward to make sure horsemanship in the warm up ring is fair
 - o Decisions:
 - All Shows at Partridge Horse Hill (PHH) unless another option becomes viable that is cost affordable.
 - Decided 3 horse shows: June, one mid summer, and September (not long weekend)
 - There will be a walk through, however some classes will walk at the same time
 - Recommended to have an obstacle course/sheet with expectations for each obstacle. Consider having a score sheet per rider that can be given to them at the end of the class.
 - Need to review the rules

- Dates to be determined after other similar obstacle show events have posted their dates.
 - Committee: Shelley, Anastasia
 - ACTION: Lindsey to email the 2015 rules and class list to the new committee to revise as they see fit based on the feedback today, and email to the board.
- Trade Show
 - Large discussion of bringing in a 'big name' versus focusing on local talent. Group voted in favour of bringing in someone with a bigger presence. Discussed David Cowley for \$3000 – decided this would be a good option because he does obstacles (which is what the NHA shows are about), promotes two way trust (a concept that is consistent with natural horsemanship and yet does not favour any particular system such as Parelli or Irwin techniques), and is from Alberta which doesn't highlight one local talent over another. Local talent will be included for round pen demonstrations and some lessons in the big ring.
 - Committee: Raine, Lindsey, Kim, Shelley, Sabrina, Yvonne
 - ACTION: Next meeting to be determined to brainstorm. In the meantime anyone can reach out to other natural horsemanship features to ask for a quote and availability. As well anyone can brainstorm ideas for the layout/format of the trade show, contact food vendors, or contact sales vendors.
- Coaching/Personal Level Certification
 - Discussed do we need the certification? Discussed the benefit of a certification of natural horsemanship that is not particular to one training technique – to help standardize all the natural horsemanship coaches/trainers that do not belong to an organization such as Parelli already.
 - Committee: Shelley, Anastasia, Sabrina
 - ACTION: group to connect with each other and send a draft proposal to the board with an idea to move forward with revisions.
- Spreading the Word
 - Discussed we need to grow natural horsemanship and promote it. Need to brainstorm ideas to grow the NHA and promote natural horsemanship.
 - Committee: Lindsey, Raine
 - Primary goal to grow the Facebook page this year. (341 likes as of November 28, 2015)
 - ACTION: group to connect and brainstorm actionable ideas. Approve all board members to be admin on the Facebook page so anyone can share natural horsemanship related posts.
- Vision, Mission, Reflection of Values
 - To promote and support natural horsemanship.
 - Discussed alliance with Canadian Horse Defence Coalition.
 - Discussed as an organization we want to promote the responsible ownership of horses.
 - If we stated we are opposed to slaughter we would be the only equine association who does, discussed this being a positive or a negative.
 - Discussed a good first step could be to promote responsible ownership, and to poll members to gauge interest in support of Canadian Horse Defense Coalition.
- Other Events

- Defer
- Next Meeting: Friday January 8th at 5pm at Partridge Horse Hill in Pontypool.