

CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND REGION
MINUTES OF THE FALL COUNCIL MEETING
September 17, 2017

The Central New England Regional Council held a Fall Council Meeting at the Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Littleton on Sunday, September 17 2017. There were 19 members in attendance. They included the following: Amanda Ellis, Stephanie Infante, Karen Marcotte, Kristie Gill, Andrea Nelson, Betsey Reeves, Judi O'Neil, Ben Vaughn, Shelly Patrick, Donna LaPierre, Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant, Antonia Bunaes, Rachel Drew, Emma Newman, Amber Anderson, Karen Herrick, Penny Lowman, Liz Hoyt and Kristen Holzworth.

Amanda began the meeting by again reminding clubs to hold their annual meetings ahead of the regional annual business meeting November 19th so that they may send their newly elected officers to the regional meeting.

We then discussed the upcoming D Rally. October 1st at the Groton Fairgrounds. All questions and correspondence should be directed to Amy Armstrong, amyarmstrong3@gmail.com, who is coordinating entries. The deadline for entries is tomorrow **September 20th** and entries must be postmarked by the deadline otherwise they will not be accepted. At this point it looks like we have 9 or so teams planning on attending.

Stephanie Patrick-Chalfant led the next discussion about changes at UNH that will most likely affect Dressage Rally, HB Testing and Summer Camp. Their policies regarding contracts have recently changed and she explained how it is going to impact us going forward. In the past we have been able to utilize the temporary stalls onsite that were set up all summer and pay minimal stall rental fees but they will now be put up and taken down for each event so we will need to either piggy-back (if possible) on one of their events or potentially pay significantly more. Because of this Stephanie looked into a different potential venue to have another option to explore: Fieldstone in Halifax, MA has the space/stalls to accommodate our rally and has different options open for dates. They have not given her the pricing information but she is going to follow up to try to get that asap.

This opened up the discussion to potentially combining rallies and either hosting a mega-rally or back-to-back rallies. There were multiple options considered...the one that seemed to be the best way to offer an overnight rally for kids trying to qualify for champs and also allow kids who want to compete in more than one discipline was to hold Dressage Rally the first day, then the second day would be the qualifying rides for Dressage for those wanting to go to champs and SJ rally for kids who are not trying to qualify for Dressage. Members could come for 1 or both rallies - it would be up to them. There are many considerations that were talked about: timing, traffic to Halifax, 1 weekend vs. multiple weekends, expense etc.

In the end Stephanie offered to look into several local venues to get information and pricing so that we can consider all of the options. These included: Fieldstone, Mt. Holyoke, Apple Knoll, Johnson and Wales, and compare all of those to the UNH (which is still an option)

Kristie mentioned at this time that Sandy (HB Coordinator) has offered to host the HB certification at her property next year. She has a facility that can accommodate the testing so that may be a good option instead of holding that at UNH.

Kristie also let us know that she will not be organizing Eventing Rally at Course Brook this coming year. She is no longer boarding there and we will need to plan an alternative. It was agreed that everyone would like to see Eventing Rally offered again. Venue options were discussed and included: Valinor, Hitching Post, Apple Knoll, Scarlet Apple, and Course Brook. We also discussed whether it is better to host in the fall or the spring. Betsey, Penny and Kristie and going to look into these options and give us their feedback at the next meeting.

Potentially a new CNE Summer Camp is going to be offered to the members of our region. In the past CNE has offered its camp at UNH in conjunction with the HB testing and UL preps as a day camp or multiple day camp. In an effort to offer another option CNE has asked Groton PC if they would be able to open their club camp up to the region so that interested members could attend that. That is held at Stoneleigh-Burnham and is a traditional overnight camp that includes lodging for camper and horse, lessons and all meals, use of their facility with a cross country course on property. To give a general idea of cost an estimate would be around \$500 for the 4 nights (everything included). This number will depend on number attending so is just a ROUGH estimate. We are looking into the options for dates and to see how many campers/horses they can accommodate. More information to come but the region wanted to make everyone aware of this potential new opportunity.

The last item on the agenda was UL testing and HA Preps. Karen Herrick led the discussion. She has 2 potential HA candidates and would like to see the region offer an organized prep program similar to the HB. There may be others in the region looking to test as well and we are going to look into how best we can support them.

REMINDERS:

DC's please email any pertinent club information (member news, ratings, photos, upcoming events, etc) to Andrea Nelson atnelson6@comcast.net and I will include it in the next newsletter. They will be sent out the first week of each month so would need to receive anything you would like included by the end of each month.

If you have important items you would like to see on the agenda for our next meeting please email those to me as well by the Friday before the meeting.

Instead of spending time reading the reports at the annual business meeting (Sunday November 19th) we are going to email them out ahead of the meeting so everyone has a chance to review them beforehand. If you are a regional officer submitting an annual report please send to me by the Thursday before the meeting so I can email everything to the region on Friday. Then if there are any questions we can go over them together at the meeting. The hope is to spend more time strategically planning/brainstorming new ideas as a group instead of reading reports.

At 5:00 p.m., with no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea L. Nelson
Regional Secretary