

MAINE EQUINE WELFARE ALLIANCE

July 14, 2010

Time – 6:30pm

Location – Maine Farm Bureau Office, Augusta

Mission Statement: *“The Maine Equine Welfare Alliance is a grassroots affiliation of horse owners, the equine industry and horse lovers committed to enriching and enhancing the lives of Maine’s equines through direct assistance, foster care, emergency intervention and public education.”*

20 attending and 1 on phone

- 1) Welcome –
- 2) Volunteer to take July Meeting Minutes – Donna Coffin
- 3) Introductions by those in attendance and our conference call member
- 4) Acceptance of June Meeting Minutes: Moved, seconded and passed to accept minutes.
- 5) Membership dues - \$10 for basic membership. Since Jon is on vacation, we were unsure how many have paid. Those nominated to committee chairs must be paid members. Suggestion to have a life time membership option. Moved, seconded and passed to keep the membership levels as voted on in the minutes and will discuss a life time option later.
- 6) Discussion & acceptance of Bylaws – Moved, seconded and passed to distribute a suggested by-laws in an electronic pdf format before the next meeting and have paper copies to be distributed at the next meeting and to be voted on at that meeting.
- 7) Discuss impact of public perception of Maine Equine Welfare Alliance & Maine Farm Bureau – Michelle started the discussion since someone had contacted her stating that they and “many other people” were concerned that MEWA was associated with MFB who are pro-slaughter and several other associations (Quarter Horse Association & Veterinary Practitioners, etc.) who are also pro-slaughter. A way to respond to this concern is to refer to the mission statement of the organization and that we are an alliance of all interested parties that are interested in the welfare of horses and choose to try to work together to try to rescue horses at risk of abuse. We are not here about things we disagree about we are here about the things we agree about. Farm Bureau is the fiscal agent and will be handling the non-profit tax-exempt legal paperwork. The group has already voted to have the MFB as host and fiscal agent for the organization. Encourage people with other opinions to become members and assist in the management of the organization. Northeast Horseman’s conference would be a good place to have a table and talk about the organization and our goals.

- 8) Discuss survey nominations, additional nominations for Sub-Committee Chair/Board Member Positions. Chair of subcommittees will be responsible for organizing their committee and reporting back to directors their accomplishments. Three consecutive unexcused absences the board would thank you for your services and find a replacement. Moved, seconded and passed to select temporary chairs to get the subcommittees started and let the committees vote on a permanent chair their first get together. Will resend the subcommittee interest list (email only or contact) to the subcommittee temporary chairs.
- a) Temporary Foster and Rescue Homes: Jen Winchester – 3, **Jan & Jim Marconi** -15
 - b) Hay and Feed Assistance: **Michelle Melaragno** -13, Melissa White - 6
 - c) Veterinary & Farrier Assistance: **Janelle Tirrell** -14 Donna Hughes -5 Janelle Tirrell
 - d) Resources: Katie Lisnik – 2 **Donna Hughes** -18 (Jan Marconi & Melanie Langmeyer declined)
 - e) Public Awareness & Education: (Peter Wappler & Missy Libby declined) - **Melanie Langmeyer** - 20
 - f) Political Action/Legal: Katie Lisnik -2, **Missy Libby** -19 (Janelle Tirrell declined)
 - g) Nominations for at large Board Members...
Since subcommittee chairs were temporary decided to table until the permanent chairs are decided by the subcommittee. Nominations received include:
 - i) Peter Wappler?
 - ii) Maddy Gray
 - iii) Donna Hughes
 - iv) Melanie Langmeyer (declined)
 - v) Don Marean
- 9) Website & database development – Volunteer or someone from specific sub-committee? Estelle Werly is willing to investigate setting up and managing a separate website off the UMaine Extension Donna and Estelle will talk about a transition plan to a new website and web author.
- 10) Contest for logo design? – To generate interest and enthusiasm for our organization. Refer to public education and awareness subcommittee.
- 11) Schedule next meetings- Wednesday, August 18th and Wednesday September 15th.
Would be nice to set a meeting schedule a year ahead. I.e. 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- 12) Changes in Department of Agriculture: Beth McEvoy clarified that Maine Department of Agriculture has changed that Bob Battise is now director of the new animal and plant health division - inspection service and Don Hoenig was relieved of his directorship of animal health. Beth's position is now funded by harness racing so she will be filling in until Sept.

- 13) Suggested we have speakers come and update us on items of interest including Bob Battise in his new capacity. The public education subcommittee can take the lead on this.
- 14) By August 18th meeting the subcommittee chairs should either have a date for their committee meeting or have had the meeting.
- 15) Adjourn