



General Meeting:

Dec.12/15 ; 12 noon

CONA Campus, Room 109

69 Pleasant Street

Clareville, NL

Introduction:

Chair (Jessica Boyd) welcomed those in attendance to the meeting, introduced council members present, and requested all persons in attendance introduce themselves.

NPS Council members present: Jessica Boyd (President), Pam Pippy (Treasurer), Jack Harris (Member at Large), Jim Hansford (Member at Large), Emily Chetkowski (Vice President) *on the phone*.

Member/Enthusiasts present: Jackie Spencer (Bay Roberts), Tammy Webber (South River), Jeanna Smith (Chapel Arm), Dean Smith (Chapel Arm), Dominic Dawson (Bay Roberts), Kevin Dawson (Bay Roberts), Gail Hansford (Goulds), Kip Kaus (Stephenville), Carol Osmond (St Johns), Harrison Verge (Harbour Grace), Don Collins (Gambo), Byron Hierlihy (South River), May Verge (Harbour Grace), Alex Verge (Fort McMurray, AB), Larry Howes (Harbour Grace).

Informal reports from council members heading into 2016:

Presidents report: Jessica Boyd

Goals/Priorities:

- Would like to work towards a more collaborative effort between council and members; involving more members in committees working on projects/tasks.
- Breeding recommendations; researching breeding recommendations with rare breed equines, hoping to be able to come forward to council with document outlining broad recommendations when breeding with long-term conservation in mind.
- Public access to lineage report; ensuring it is up to date and accurate.
- Breeders list (helping breeders connect) and stud directory (goal being to network information); important going into 2016 breeding season
- Census; huge priority, potentially costly endeavor, need to come up with plan of action to proceed. May end up being informal, ie; "Census committee", group of individuals who would

be given lists of ponies, contact info for owners, call down through the list and get up to date information in regards to location, age, color etc (some older records were not complete).

Treasurers Report: Pam Pippy

Presented Financial report: (see attached document), and discussed projects from 2015, and plans for 2016

- With Cle Newhook stepping down as President of NPS, and Jessica Boyd taking his place, there has been a change of signing officers at the bank; Jessica Boyd, Pam Pippy and Sarah Pearcey have signing authority for NPS bank account
- Sorted through and meticulously organized 18 boxes of pre-2012 NPS papers, documentation that had been in storage at the provincial archives at The Rooms. The NPS archives, and full registry, now has a permanent home at The Rooms in the provincial archives, with no annual fees.
- Attended the Downhome Expo with 3 Ponies in April 2015, will be attending again in 2016, hoping to have 3 new ponies to showcase at this event. Profit of >\$2000
- Pony Wreath Fundraiser: sold for \$46.95 each, sold 165 of them, should net close to \$3000. Wreaths were sold across Canada and also into the USA.
- The Newfoundland Pony has recently accepted the distinctive designation of Cultural Heritage and Tradition, under the Provincial Historic Commemorative Program. This was applied for by Dominique Lavers, NPS member and Pony owner. With this award comes the opportunity to apply for an up to \$2500 grant, which NPS is pursuing. If this grant money is obtained it is the hope of NPS council to use this \$2500 to fund DNA testing of ponies. This ties in with the free registration offered to NPS members for 2016, and our hope is that with \$2500 for DNA testing (= 50 ponies) we will be able to DNA test and register a number of eligible ponies in 2016. There will likely be a limit to the # of free DNA tests that any given owner can avail of, to ensure we spread this incentive among as many pony owners as possible.
- There is a need for proper process and procedures within the NPS society and council. Registrar, Treasurer, Membership Secretary will be putting together handbooks detailing duties and procedures. This will ensure that when there is a change of council new council members will be able to step in and have a clear understanding of what their role is, and what is expected of them.
- Hoping to solicit ideas for pony-related fundraiser ideas from pony owners and general public; ex. Crafts, artwork. Anyone with a pony fundraiser idea should contact Pam Pippy @ pppippy@bellalliant.net

Email Correspondence: (see attached document) these emails were read aloud for those in attendance (within time constraint). Emails submitted will be circulated to those members wishing to review.

Suggestions and comments submitted via email triggered productive open discussion within group present at the meeting.

Through this discussion, the following topics were brought up and discussed among those present at the meeting:

Breeder directory; importance of being able to network with other breeders

Errors with Lineage Report; advised those present that if ANY errors are noted with Lineage Report to contact NPS Secretary (Sarah Skye Pearcey ssp709@gmail.com) so corrections can be made. The registry information NEEDS to be accurate, although we do our best to ensure all info is complete, council, and indeed registrar herself, are not going to be 100% familiar with details of each and every pony, and may not

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Insurance opportunities for pony owners; there is a concern that although individuals may want to showcase their Newfoundland Ponies, invite others to come visit them, and even provide Pony rides, that there are liability issues in doing so. The question put to council was whether NPS could provide some sort of liability insurance coverage for pony owners. Jessica Boyd advised of Newfoundland Equestrian Associations liability coverage for horse owners (<http://equestriannl.ca/membership.html>). This would not cover shows or events, or any sort of business venture involving ponies, but may be helpful from a liability standpoint for the average pony owner. Pam Pippy will check into whether NPS insurance coverage could be provided for pony owners wanting to host an open farm day, or event.

Concerns about foundation stock being "taken out of registry" (Ex. Fussy); advised that the pony Fussy was put under review over 10 years ago by a previous Registrar, and that Fussy was known to have had a Belgian horse as his sire. Cindy Mehaney evaluated the file to see if we could come to a resolution, found that the application had never been completed (no photos were submitted). We contacted the owner of Fussy to see if they were interested in completing the application. No response was obtained from the owner at this time.

Concerns about registry; hair samples collected in the past, no follow-through. This has left some pony owners unwilling to be involved at this time. Advised that because humans have been involved with NPS from day 1, there have been some human errors. NPS council is trying to move forward from that, to build relationships with pony owners, and encourage as many pony owners to be involved in NPS as possible, as this is to the direct benefit of the pony.

More help from Provincial government; can NPS work towards that? This is THE Newfoundland Pony, Newfoundland's Heritage Animal.

Permanent part-time position; Registrar: the opinion was that the position of Registrar is really too much work and responsibility for 1 unpaid volunteer, and would be best served by having an individual hired in a permanent part-time position to fulfill duties of registrar. This would involve assistance from the provincial government.

Community pastures; Spencer's Bridge Pasture was previously on lease by NPS, has not been used in years, is overgrown, but could be worked, re-fenced, and used as a community pasture for Ponies in the area. Provincial government is currently conducting a review of pasture land, this is likely a good time to look into this.

Regional representatives for NPS; this would allow more ease of communication between council and members/owners.

Tourism opportunities; pony trekking, heritage demonstrations. All in attendance seemed to agree that these are good opportunities for pony owners, however it really involves having someone who wants to do that type of business venture, and also having the ponies to do so. Discussion about how you need well trained and calm ponies to do Pony rides, sleigh rides, etc. There are only a few horse/pony trainers on the island, and although there are riding clinics, lesson programs etc, there are not many teaching pleasure driving/harness work clinics.

Pony Training program; If NPS could make contact with an experienced driver/handler , a workshop could be held (recorded for those who cannot be in attendance), going over the basic principles of traditional driving harness, how to properly hitch a pony to cart sleigh or plow, and the basic steps taken in training a young pony to work.

Open Floor Discussion: members in attendance were welcomed to take the floor, one at a time, to discuss concerns and suggestions they may have.

Don Collins: queried research done 5+ years ago, working towards books/articles, may be documented in The Rooms, questioned whether anything ever came of it?

Kevin Dawson: suggested bringing back Newfoundland Pony Calendar. Jessica Boyd advised that NPS is planning to have 2017 Newfoundland Pony Calendars, professional photographer Kip Kaus is going to be travelling during the 2016 year photographing Newfoundland Ponies for the calendar and other promotional materials. Any interested pony owners should contact Kip Kaus @ kipkaus@gmail.com

Harrison Verge: presented opening statement as representative of NPOA (see attached document), and presented document outlining concerns and suggestions for constitutional changes (see attached document), from Newfoundland Pony Owners and Breeders Coalition of Newfoundland. Formally requested a follow-up meeting April 16/16, document signed by: Tammy Webber, Jackie Spencer, Oscar Kaus, Alex Verge, Larry B Howes (see attached document)

Meeting Adjourned ☺