**Red Hook Society Apprehension and Detention of Horse Thieves**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

**October 11, 2016**

**Meeting:** The 220th Annual Dinner meeting was held at the Mason’s Hall in the Village of Red Hook at 6:30 pm. The dinner dues were $25 per person. The menu consisted of: salad, loin of pork**,** vegetable, baked potato, ice cream and coffee/tea.

**Opened Meeting:** President Al Trezza opened the meeting at 6:45 pm. There were 39 members who enjoyed the dinner.

**Presentation:** The Landsman Kill Trail Association, Rhinebeck, NY was given by Education Chair, Edna Mass and spring and fall Chair, Jean DiMarco, who made a presentation. This Association opened in 1968 in Rhinebeck. The trails are kept open by property owners including when there is a change over in ownership. There are 4 events during the year. In the spring, ride members are free. The spring pace includes hills, time jumps, prizes and ribbons. During the fall pace and ride volunteers and original members mow the trails. This has been done for 48 years. Kay Verilli of River Road is an original member and acknowledged in their newsletter. Annie Liebovitz is enthusiastic and allows the club to ride on her property. Multi-use trails are not acceptable especially bikes and all terrain vehicles.

There was discussion about easement versus permissions, the preferred means of accessing properties. Anyone can access the trails as a member except during hunting season as they use those trails, too. There are presently about 50-60 members and memberships vary according to use. Its $100 or $50 if you volunteer 5 hours clearing trails. You get a map and the trails will be color coded. They sponsor free educational courses for the public to attract new members. There was a question about horse thief traffic. Loose horses are not a problem. Stories focused on horses taken and then auctioned. There is a fox hunt in Chatham but Landsman is for pleasure only. Everyone enjoyed the presentation which was very informative.

**Business:** The business meeting was called to order by President Al Trezza at 8:00 pm. with the pledge of allegiance. The 219th annual dinner meeting minutes from October 13, 2015 was read by substituting secretary, Linda Keeling, who took notes as Trilby Sieverding’s injured wrist made it impossible to write. The President explained this is the first year that letters didn’t go out and saved $145 in postage and office supplies. Invitations will go out via email from this point on as most members use email now.

 **Motion:** *Ronnie Trezza motioned to accept the minutes from Oct. 13, 2015, Trilby Sieverding seconded and all agreed.*

**Old Business:**

**1. *Website:*** Noah Friedman, developed the website and was acknowledged by Al Trezza.

**2. Committee Reports:**

 **A. Scholarship:** Lenore Maroney gave an extensive background on the winner’s educational and extracurricular activities in the community. She reportedthat *Jessica Zulch* received the $500award. She sent a thank you note and explained she wants to study veterinarian care at the University of Vermont as a biological scientist:

*“Thank you very much for your generous scholarship. As you know, vet school and college in general, is very expensive. This helps a lot. I am so excited to work with animals and to make a difference in the world. I’ve always loved animals from a young age, rescuing birds who flew into windows or even dogs who got spooked and ran off from their homes, Thank you for supporting my dream! With Gratitude, Jess Zulch* (22 *North Street, Red Hook, NY)”*

 **B. Nominating:** The members were Diane Thorley and Lenore Maroney. President Al Trezza requested a new president be picked as he has done it for 10 years now when it was only suppose to be for 2 years. The new volunteers are Todd and Karen Baright who will act as co-presidents. Trilby Sieverding agreed to serve as secretary for one more year. Future checks will be sent directly to Treasurer Les Thorley to simplify the process. Lottie Kittner agreed to help Les. There were no nominations from the floor.

 **Motion:** *Lottie Kittner motioned to close the nominations, Juliet Harrison seconded, all agreed.*

 **Motion:** *Lottie Kittner motioned for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate, Ronnie Trezza seconded, all agreed.*

 **C. Treasurer’s Report**: The four- page written report was written by treasurer, Paul Laibach. The current balance is $3,336.38 Distributions were $1,726.35 Receipts were $1,460.00 Compared to last year it is $236 less. Future membership dues should be sent to Treasurer Les Thorley directly.

Membership is down $1500 over the last 10 years. President Al Trezza explained that missing a meeting and paying the full price was too expensive for the members and discouraged them from attending future meetings. There has been a change to encourage members to continue their memberships. Now the penalty is simply $5 for each missed meeting.

 **D. Moment of Silence:** President Al Trezza called for a moment of silence for all former members who have passed away.

**New Business:**

**1. Scholarship:** President Al Trezza said funds are still available for a scholarship. Lenore Maroney noted that in April or May there will be another decision for a scholarship winner.

Juliet Harrison suggested getting equine related businesses to donate for the scholarship. President Al Trezza at this point it was not necessary as we seem to have the funds for the scholarship. Linda Keeling asked if it is only for Red Hook School District graduates and asked about home schooled children. Lenore Maroney said she has contact in the school and is unfamiliar with the home schooled children.

 **Motion:** *Lenore Maroney motioned to continue the $500 scholarship for the following year Todd Baright seconded, all agreed.*

**2. Rider Committee:** Rider Juliet Harrison reported no thefts. Pathways have improved for traction in the Village and trails were paved.

**3. New Members:** President Al Trezza asked if there were any new members applying to the Society? They told their horse story.

 A. ***Violet Saxon***, 30 Campus Road, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504, (917) 771-7456, violetmsaxon@gmail.com , from Bard College found the group on the internet.

 B. ***Brian Mucci***, 56 Stoneybrook Rd., Pine Bush, NY 12566, 845-636-3232, BMucci@earthlink.net , was introduced by Lenore Maroney.

 **Motion:** *Trilby Sieverding motioned to accept the two applicants, Ronnie Jones seconded and all agreed.*

Violet and Brian were appointed riders and should report back to the Society next year.

**4. Closing:** President Al Trezza thanked everyone for coming and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Society clapped in appreciation of his service. He acknowledged the extensive work efforts of Trilby Sieverding and Les Thorley in supporting his position over the years.

 **Motion:** *Trilby Sieverding motioned to adjourn the 220th Annual Meeting, Les Thorley seconded and all agreed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, Secretary Substitute