

Minutes of the NEIHC Annual Meeting

March 9, 2024

1. President's Welcome (and comments) - Emily Potts

- a. Emily noted that the term for Board members has increased to 3 years of service from 2 years.
- b. Ebba Meehan is stepping down from the Board. The Board will decide to fill this open spot now or to wait until the next Board election scheduled for February or March 2025. Although no longer on the Board, Ebba will continue to work with the NEIHC.
- c. Brynja Meehan reported that the NEIHC Youth Team will compete in this summer's Youth Cup.

2. Meet the Members

Thirty-five–forty members at 26 different locations participated in the meeting via Zoom.

3. Treasurer's Report - Nancy Rohlf

- a. Nancy's report is attached to the minutes.
- b. Income came from the member dues.
- c. We hope to get more financial support from the USIHC for the 2024 Equine Affaire.

4. Membership - Amy Goddard

- a. NEIHC currently has 162 adult members (an increase of 2 from last year) and 37 youth members (an increase of 3) for a total of 199 members. Of our membership, 138 also belong to the USIHC (a 3% increase over last year).
- b. Twenty-six of our members have not paid dues since 2022. Amy will send out a reminder to these members. Those members who continue to owe dues will eventually be removed from our member list and email group.

5. Promotion, Education and Youth - Ebba, Ona and Brynja

- a. Ebba talked about member activities and events that helped with promotion in 2023. Her presentation is posted on the NEIHC website.
- b. Two NEIHC members, Brynja Meehan and Leisl Kolbe will compete at the 2024 FEIF Youth Cup. NEIHC member Miette Jennings is a reserve rider.

6. Fundraising - Leah Greenberger

- a. NEIHC evaluated the possibility of hosting a National Ranking Show in 2024. Any show will need to be financially viable. The show would need to include at least 35 riders to make it work. Twenty two–twenty-four riders have expressed an interest in competing.
- b. Another possibility would be a schooling show and a clinic.
- c. NEIHC will need to decide what, if anything, will take place this year.

7. Website Redesign - Amy Goddard

- a. Amy has been working with Hanna Ghijsen to redesign the NEIHC website using a Squarespace platform.
- b. The Squarespace products we are using are the design templates, domain hosting, security and search engine optimization. All of these provide a user-friendly environment.

Squarespace makes updating content and photographs much easier than our current site allows.

- c. The new site will replace our existing one in the next couple of months.

8. 2023 NEIHC Events Recap

- a. The Equine Affaire was a success thanks to our volunteers.
 - i. A team from Merrimack Valley Icelandics rode in the breed demos which showcased the versatility of Icelandic Horses. They also demonstrated the various gaits.
 - ii. Gudmar Petursson of Hestaland presented an in-hand demonstration in the Equine Fundamentals forum. He covered topics such as the breed's gaits, breed characteristics, the NEIHC, the USIHC, Horses of Iceland, and riding/trekking in Iceland. His presentation provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to ask their questions. Leah Greenberger, John Penosil, Maren Prenosil and Grace Greenberger brought our booth horses, Skati and Koll. Horses of Iceland sponsored our booth and the USIHC provided Policy 21 funding to support us. We have renewed our booth for 2024 and look forward to another great year.
- b. The NEIHC Member Survey
 - i. 71 members responded to our survey.
 - ii. Members were most interested in clinics. Educational webinars were also important. These were followed by trail rides, fun shows, schooling shows, a dressage show, and a national ranking show.
 - iii. Members were also interested in topics which will help us plan future events and educational topics. Some common topics included gait/tolt training, liberty training, nutrition and equine welfare.
 - iv. 46% of the members who responded are willing to travel 50-100 miles for events.
 - v. There were many ways our members were introduced to the Icelandic Horse. The most common answers were NEIHC farms including Vermont Icelandic Horse Farm, West Wind Farm, Lunar Hill and Solheimar. Others included the Equine Affaire and riding in Iceland.

9. 2024 Upcoming Events and Activities

- a. Group trail ride and potluck at Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield MA
- b. 2024 Equine Affaire
- c. Topsfield MA Fair
- d. A Hunter Pace: Myopia Hunt Club, Hamilton, MA , has invited Icelandic horses to participate
- e. A combined clinic and schooling show
- f. A National Ranking show at the end of May
- g. Monthly schooling shows at Merrimack Valley Icelandics

10. NEIHC Member's Announcements & Requests

None

11. Guest Speakers: Jana Meyer and Alexandra Pregitzer

Jana and Alex shared a very interesting webinar on spring training as well as taking care of your horse through the changes in weather as we move from winter to spring.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda McLaughlin*

Financial Summary NEIHC January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023			
Cash Balance as of 1/09/23			\$ 25,171.66
Cash Balance as of 12/31/23			\$ 25,588.80
Income			
Membership Income			2,548.33
Horses of Iceland (Equine Affaire)			675.00
USIHC (Equine Affaire)			150.00
Total			\$ 3,373.33
Expenses			
Bank Fees			60.00
State of MA fee			18.50
Equine Affaire			748.60
Calendar/Email/Website			686.34
Event Insurance (Equine Affaire)			484.00
Insurance D & O			928.00
Supplies			30.75
Total			\$ 2,956.19
Net Income			\$ 417.14