



Steeplechase Owners and Trainers Association, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2021 – 2:00pm EST

Miriam Anver	Joe Davies	Wendy Kingsley	Leslie Young
Mark Beecher	Lucy Goelet	Jeff LeHew	Donnie Yovanovich
Fenneka Bentley	Ricky Hendriks	Alex Leventhal	Todd Wyatt
Sean Clancy	Marsha Hewitt	Sanna Neilson	
Gail Clark	Arch Kingsley	Hill Parker	

Unable to attend:

Sheila Fisher

Keri Brion

- I. Guest caller, Dr. Reynolds Cowles, came on the call and delivered a presentation on safety.  
He asked the board for feedback on safety in the sport.

Ross Geraghty and Gus Brown have been tasked with developing a rider education program for younger riders.

Some thoughts on the things we are doing well:

Better course management.

Could do better with vet checks to make them more consistent.

New fences will hopefully change things for the better.

Dr. Cowles left the call 2:34pm.

- II. Secretary, Kimberly Kapaczewski, took roll and approved the January minutes as written.

- III. President's Report

Todd Wyatt

A. Meetings Attended

Race Director's Meeting – Most of the race meets are trying to run whether they have fans attending or not. Live Streaming and the importance of running races on time was a key talking point during this meeting.

NSA Board Meeting – Al Griffin supported SOTA on numerous times during the call. NSA President, Al Griffin, put out a nice letter supporting SOTA. We have put this letter on social media.

B. Membership Initiative

The NSA board did not like attaching the membership fee on their license.

IV. Old Business

A. Updating By-Laws

Kimberly Kapacziewski

The board has received a copy of the “under construction” by-laws. We are in the process of updating those. Kimberly asked for committee help in getting those completed. Jeff LeHew mentioned some communication issues that we have with the by-laws in reference to who is being represented and why pay a membership fee if you are automatically represented by SOTA.

V. New Business

A. Membership Drive

Hill Parker

Hill has contacted all members who need to renew. General Membership (not 2020 members) will receive an email asking to join as well as a letter based off Al Griffin’s letter. We may need to reach out to several owners and trainers thorough regular mail. We will revisit this in a few months as we see how the membership drive is going. Todd Wyatt asked if the “Supporter” option for members should be less than the O/T \$75 fee. Donnie Yovanovich suggested to have a third option of “other.”

B. Hunt Meet Committee

Leslie Young

This committee will work with hunt meets before, during, and after the races. They will also have a SOTA representative at the hunt meet and help with situations that arise. Sean Clancy cautioned the group to not take on too much responsibility with official rulings. Kimberly Kapacziewski will reach out to Leslie to come up with a one-pager of what the SOTA reps are available for as well as committee members.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Treasurer’s Report

Wendy Kingsley

Checking	\$ 6,902.56
PayPal	\$ 1,086.68
Savings	\$ 14,596.59

B. Race Conditions Committee

Sean Clancy

The committee (Sean Clancy, Todd Wyatt, Ricky Hendriks, Leslie Young) has had several calls with Bill Gallo. They made a few changes to get more horses represented. Unfortunately, there is no 4yo race in the spring, they couldn’t find a spot for it. Sean urged everyone to reach out to the committee and Bill Gallo to find a spot for horses if there isn’t a race for them.

C. Apprentice Rider Committee

Joe Davies

Nothing new to report. The 10/7/5 apprentice rule was approved and we’ve got some good Apprentice Allowances at the point-to-points.

VII. Adjourn

Tentative meeting for March: March 9, 2021 2pm EST

Since the meeting:

2/26/21 Kimberly Kapaczewski, Marsha Hewitt, and Todd Wyatt had a 2 hour conference call to update the bylaws.

3/3 Kimberly and Todd had a call about Easyfix fences.

3/4 Kimberly worked for 2hrs 57 minutes on depositing check, updating membership ledger, updating website, contacted Hill Parker to update on memberships. Contacted Leslie Young about SOTA Hunt Meet Reps. Contacted each of these reps to make sure they are available for the assigned dates. Edited items on the bylaws. Updated payment information on website to renew online payment gateway.

3/9 reviewed bylaws with Marsha Hewitt

3/10 3.5 hours Drafted membership welcome packet, 2.5 hours working on memberships

3/11 1 hour editing draft, over an hour phone conference with Todd and Wendy, reviewed membership packet with Marsha Hewitt

3/12 Sent SOTA representatives list to NSA office

3/15 2.5 hours Deposited check, entered checks into ledger, updated website, logged checks in shared Google Drive Reviewed letter from NSA with Todd and ran through agenda, sent out meeting reminder, bylaws, agenda, letter from NSA to board members