

**Back Country Horsemen of the Virginia Highlands**  
**December 7, 2019**

The meeting was held at the home of Curtis and Renee Stillwell and was called to order by Nancy Sluys, President.

**Members in attendance:**

Ron and Theresa Anderson	Melody LaPage	Dawn and Greg Theisen
Diane Cherry and Ron McArthur	Nancy Sluys	Susan Tomaselli
Ann Crawford and Charles Poole	Charlie and Susan Smith	
Anne Lemere and Byron Wallace	Curtis and Renee Stillwell	

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the October 12, 2019 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dawn reviewed the attached Treasurer's Report, noting the following:

- Administration Account: Credits included T-shirt sales and dues, totaling \$396. Debits included \$70 expenses for hosting the packing project and \$25 to the State Corporation Commission. The ending balance for the Administration Account as of 12/7/19 was \$4169.17.
- Trail Fund Account: Credits included donations from the Iron Mountain Jubilee Endurance Ride and Tack Sale and the Horse and Hounds donation. The ending balance for the Trail Fund Account as of 12/7/19 was \$10,833.12.
- A check was received from Fidelity Charitable, with no explanation. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the crediting of these funds to the Trail Fund Account.
- Membership: Membership dues that were received during or after October are credited for 2020 memberships. It was confirmed that membership dues are \$25/single and \$40/family. Membership forms were distributed. Members were encouraged to send in dues as soon as possible.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the report as presented.

**Public Lands Committee Report:** Nancy reviewed the attached summary of the meeting with the Forest Service, noting that Chief Ranger Barry Garten is excited to have additional personnel and they are committed to "action on the ground" in 2020. He was very appreciative of our coordination of the joint project to remove the shelter from Raccoon Branch Wilderness Area and the national recognition that the project received. Discussions included renovation of the Bourne's Branch Trailhead Parking Lot (Kiosk) and several other trail areas. Additional discussion included the Hugo's Meadow sign, which was remade by the Mount Rogers Trail Coalition and given to the Forest Service, but it was not completed. Bill Sluys will be adding the backing and framing and a workday will be scheduled with the Forest Service to place the sign.

- Chain Saw Class: There will be a chainsaw class in April. We will have at least two slots in the class.

**Election of Officers:** Nancy explained that officers serve two year terms. Normally Secretary would be elected next year but Diane Cherry has resigned, necessitating an election this year. Diane was thanked for numerous years of serving Back Country Horsemen of America at the local, state, and national level. She was presented with a BCHA shirt and mug. We are extremely appreciative of her contributions, service and friendship!

- President: Nancy Sluys was nominated to continue as President. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Nancy Sluys as President for a two year term beginning January 2020.
- Dawn Theisen was nominated to continue as Treasurer. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Dawn Theisen as Treasurer for a two year term beginning January 2020.
- Susan Smith was nominated as Secretary. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Susan Smith as Secretary to fulfill the remaining year of the two year term as Secretary.

**Additional Appreciation:** Ron Anderson was presented with a chainsaw pack, in appreciation for his dedication to BCHVH and in recognition of the many times he has carried and used his chainsaw for trail clearing. An additional chainsaw pack was purchased by the Club and will stored at Triple C for use for trail clearing.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at Nancy Sluys' Trailside on January 11, 2020.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Susan Smith, Secretary