

Meeting Minutes

Mar 13, 2011

Opening:

The second Vermont Horse Council meeting of 2011 was called to order at 1 PM on March 13, 2011 in UVM Extension Meeting Room, Berlin, Vermont by Mike Benoit, President. 21 members were present at the meeting

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

- Introductions
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business & Committee Reports
- New Business (Election of Officers, Award of 2011 Horse Person of the Year and Next Meeting Date)

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were accepted as listed on the Vermont Horse Council Web Page. *Note: during the meeting it was revealed that there was an error in the minutes. Roger Morin did work on the paddocks at Groton State Forest, but fencing was rearranged by the park after the work had been completed.*

Treasurer's Report attached was unanimously approved. Vermont Horse Council has paid memberships to the following organizations: American Horse Council, New England Horse and Trails, Farm Bureau, and Vermont Trails and Greenways. Terry Rose is in contact with Vermont Trails and Greenways to remove Lynn's name from the web page as the VHC contact.

C. Committee Reports and Agenda Items

Membership - There currently are 263 members. A discussion was held regarding paperless membership packets. Members can request to go paperless, but membership cards will still be mailed in hard copy. It is most convenient and efficient for Terry to continue as current. If someone wants to take over the membership committee and drive to 100% electronic the committee chair will be passed over. No one volunteered to take over the chair.

AHC – Ilene reported that she will be visiting Washington DC in the next couple of weeks and will stop by at the AHC offices. June is the month for the annual AHC meeting. Once agenda is determined, Ilene will determine if worth traveling and if so will contact directors to request funding to attend. Highlights of committee report included:

- Any member is encouraged to go on the AHC web site (www.horsecouncil.org) to get latest information

- Attention is being given to Forest Service planning rules currently
- Trails preservation is major emphasis for the AHC nationwide – there is also a link on the web page to National Trails Organizations
- Individual membership gives discounts at Tractor Supply
- Have learned that there is an informal gathering of New England and New York horse council members. Might be a good idea to get looped into this group.

NEKET – A workday on May 21 has been scheduled. It will be a one day event to help mark the trails. Look at the web page for updates. VHC member NEKET ride scheduled for September 9-11, 2011.

Collaborative Trail Initiative – no report

Greenway's Council – no report

Annual Ride – To be held in Tunbridge, Vermont on September 23-25, 2011. Ride cost will remain the same.

Safety – Many copies of the posters are still available. Contact Mike Benoit at benoit.martha@yahoo.com. Several members took posters for distribution at local garages, drivers ed offices, schools and police stations. A discussion about youth group making a film of driver/horse safety was held. Further information will be brought forth at future meetings. Jeannette delivered “Share the Road” pamphlet from the Connecticut Horse Council.

By-Laws – no recommendations for changes were made.

Trail Maintenance – discussion about coupling with ATV groups was held, but no resolution was made. Discussion about Bissonette family in the Northeast Kingdom regarding trail access, but no resolution was made. Morris reminded membership that the VHC funds were for public land trail repair. The funds are meant to be *matching funds* and that maximum award is \$350.00.

Scholarship Fund – No new applications. Sue has updated the application form. ACTION ITEM – Sue will forward electronic copy to Jeannette to post on the web page. Farm Show generated \$623 for the Cliff/Murray scholarship fund.

Farm Bureau – Bev gave an overview of different types of memberships and what each membership benefits entailed. One of the biggest benefits is a weekly electronic update of legislative activities that affect the agricultural community. Bev encouraged support of the Farm Bureau.

Groton State Forest – work crews will be formed for Little River and for Groton once the snow goes away. Watch web page for details.

Equine Emergency Funds - received \$75.00 donation. Hay bank is being set up by Spring Hill Rescue. No action taken in this regard. Cindy denied request for gelding of stallion as she felt this funding was more appropriately used for emergency feed and care of equines.

Vermont Humane Federation is paying for Cindy to attend the large animal cruelty investigator training. Vermont Horse Council pays dues to VHF and Cindy wanted to thank the VHC for their help in the important work of helping horses in need.

LATR – hopes to set up two more teams in the northern part of the state after the next training. If this happens every county will have a designated equipped team.

The state vet is looking at setting up memorandums of understandings with all of the LATR teams so they may be activated by Vermont Emergency Management. The Agriculture portion of the State Emergency plan is being rewritten and LATR will be included in some way. Cindy will work with the teams to set up MOU's.

Lamoille Valley Rail to Trail- No report

Newsletter – No report

Parade Group - Discussion regarding reinvigoration of this group. First parade will be Williamstown on Memorial Day weekend. Jody is still willing to lead the committee.

Riding and Driving Program – **Motion made: to add single rider option to this program for a cost of \$20.00 for lifetime membership.** Seconded and passed unanimously. ACTION ITEM – Brenda is going to contact current active members to see if it is okay to publish their accomplishments on the web page.

Everything Equine- Jyl presented layout and requested funds to upgrade the professional appearance of the booth. It will debut at Everything Equine this year. Coverage for the booth is complete. **Motion made: grant \$500 to purchase materials to improve the professional appearance of the VHC booth with a goal for it to be ready for April 30th Everything Equine weekend.** Seconded and approved unanimously.

D. New Business

Horse Person of the Year - Two people were awarded the honor for 2011; Roger Morin and Patricia Brannon.

Nomination & Election of Officers – Slate provided; Roger Morin (President), Patricia Brannon (Vice President), Cindy Cross-Greenia (Secretary) and Terry Rose (Treasurer). There were no nominations from the floor. Slate was voted by single vote from acting secretary, Jeannette Cole.

Next Meeting – May 15 from 1-4 pm. (ACTION ITEM) Cindy Cross-Greenia to request Berlin Extension Office space for this meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM by Mike Benoit.

Minutes submitted by: Jeannette K C

Meeting Minutes January 9, 2011

Opening:

The first Vermont Horse Council meeting of 2011 was called to order at 1:20 PM on January 9, 2011 in UVM Extension Meeting Room, Berlin, Vermont by Mike Benoit, President. 16 members were present at the meeting

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed.

- Minutes from the September Meeting
- Old Business (Committee Reports)
- New Business (Direction of VHC, Nominating Committee, ACTHA review, Booth for Everything Equine, Combination of VHC accounts, VHC Logo, By-Law review, Donations)

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of September, 2010 were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report attached was unanimously approved. Terry Rose brought a request forward to move all of the separate VHC accounts into one account, but to continue to report funds as separate line items. **Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously to move VHC money to one account but continue to maintain line item accountability for funds.**

C. Committee Reports and Agenda Items

Membership - There currently are 242 members.

AHC – no report. Terry Rose brought forward that membership dues to American Horse Council is due. **Motion made to renew membership – unanimously passed.**

NEKET – A workday at the end of May will be scheduled. It will be a one day event to help mark the trails. Look at the web page for updates. There was discussion among the membership present regarding slipperiness of wooden bridges. No resolution was made. The fall ride at NEKET will be held September 9-11, 2011. Discussion was held regarding whether or not to have the fall VHC meeting at this ride. No resolution was made. Martha requested help with

riding and mapping trails. (ACTION ITEM) Jeannette offered to contact Heidi to see if she might be interested in co leading this effort in the spring.

Collaborative Trail Initiative – Visit www.uvm.edu/tourismresearch/trails for more information. **Upcoming meetings:** Vermont Trail Collaborative, Monday, May 2, 2011 Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce in Berlin.

Steering Committee: The steering committee has monthly conference calls and everyone is welcome to join the call. Please let me know in advance if you'd like to join so I can send you the call-in info and make sure we have enough open phone lines. The next call will be Tuesday, February 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Greenway's Council – no report

Annual Ride – To be held in Tunbridge, Vermont on September 23-25, 2011. There may need to be an increase in ride cost, because the fairgrounds are increasing rental for Gilman Hall and also electricity hook-up.

Safety – Many copies of the posters are still available. Contact Mike Benoit at benoit.martha@yahoo.com

By-Laws – Morris Lasell will be reviewing the by-laws and making recommended changes to the membership at the annual meeting in March 2011.

Trail Maintenance – nothing to report

Scholarship Fund – Five applications were received and two scholarships were awarded. Thank you notes were received from the recipients. Request to change the web page to reflect Sue Altland's name and address as scholarship chair (COMPLETED).

Farm Bureau – No report. Morris reminded everyone about the Farm Show in Barre from Jan 25-27, 2011. Volunteers were solicited for covering the Vermont Horse Council Booth.

Groton State Forest – Permission to increase the size of the corrals was granted, but not completed in 2010. State is working on making a loop from the Telephone Line Trail, to Cold Water Brook trail, through the sand lot and back to Boulder Beach Road. Bridge funding is needed to cross Cold Water Brook. Jeannette Cole will be submitting a grant request to VHC to help in this project.

VHC Website - Jeannette will continue to do web content for the VHC web page. Please forward any information to her at jkcole@trans-video.net Members discussed freshening up the site – some different ideas were generated.

LATR – Cindy reported on the Colchester, VT rescue. All of the grant money donated by VHC has been spent. The next training is scheduled for May 21st in the Northeast Kingdom. More details to follow when they are available.

Lamoille Valley Rail to Trail- No report

Newsletter – No report

Parade Group - Discussion regarding participation in parades. Deb Martin offered to help any member's horse that might need training so they could participate in upcoming parades. **Motion made to allow for any member of VHC who is participating in a parade to be able to use VHC equipment and to be covered by VHC insurance or an additional waiver. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.** (ACTION ITEM) Mike Benoit will contact Jody Barna regarding this motion and to determine if she would like the assistance of Deb Martin and Karen Blow in coordinating parade requests.

Riding and Driving Program – Brenda Lasell gave a detailed report. Discussion followed on members' verses horses being tracked separately. (ACTION ITEM) Sue Altland will bring a recommendation forward at the March meeting to membership on several options for modification to the current program.

Everything Equine- Discussion regarding professionalism and reflection of VHC mission for the 2011 booth. (ACTION ITEM) Jeannette and Jyl to meet off line to bring recommendations to the group for the March meeting. The VHC has not received any funds from their help last year at the Horsin' Around Event. (ACTION ITEM) Terry Rose to contact Everything Equine directors to request a different place for the VHC table this year.

D. New Business

Nomination & Election of Officers – Morris Lasell to chair committee and to bring slate of candidates to the March meeting.

VHC Logo – Discussion around refreshing the logo, but no resolution was made.

ACTHA – Jyl presented American Competitive Trail Horse Association overview. It is a 6-10 mile trail ride with 6 or more judged obstacles. Mid State Riding Club sponsored an event in 2010. Discussion regarding other venues within Vermont; perhaps NEKET were held. A suggestion to contact Eddy Brook Farm in Middlebury was given. The Mid State ACTHA ride will be held on July 16 and 17, 2011.

Donations Requests – VHC has received several. Members discussed the intent of donations from the club to be for individuals who are one time need. Club finances do not allow for fielding on-going non profits support.

Next Meeting – March 13 from 1-4 pm. (ACTION ITEM) Jeannette Cole to request Berlin Extension Office space for this meeting.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM by Mike Benoit.

Minutes submitted by:

Jeannette K Cole, Secretary – stand in