

Secretary Report of the Vermont Horse Council's

September 8, 2012 Meeting

Held at the NEKET camp field in Victory, VT

Meeting called to order by President Ken Hoeppner at 9:12 am

Officers and Directors Present: Ken Hoeppner, President; Patricia Branon, VP; Brenda Lasell, Secretary; Morris Lasell, Roger Morin, Phyllis Civitello, and Mike Benoit all Directors.

Members Present: Michael Civitello, Bea Morin, Marilyn Martinez, Karen Orne, Bob & Lynn O'Connell, Mario Salois, Jesse Salois, Mary Gilman, Eric & Suzanne Martin, Tim & Clara Davis, Michelle Pike, Karen Blow, Jess Taylor, Martha Benoit, Jazmyn Whitcomb, Branda Charhette, Leah Favreau, Doug, Melissa, Logan & Hayley Abbott, Dave Delano, Emily Delano, Lynn Knight, Suzanne Hoeppner, Sharon Paton and Chuck Fergus.

Guests: Pauleena Kapovkranidis, Sally Gaynor-Knecht and Baillie Knecht.

Introductions were made by attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Brenda read the secretary report from the last meeting of May 20, 2012. Mike Benoit made the motion to approve as read. 2nd by Phyllis Civitello. So moved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda read the 9-4-12 treasurer's report as sent to her from Terry Rose as follows:

VHC Checking: \$1634.14

Savings: \$17,412.40

Petty Cash: \$63.80

Total Balance: \$ 19,110.34

Total Pledges: \$13,560.18

Available Funds: \$5550.16

Jane Thompson fund has \$480.00 and Sarah said Jane would have wanted it to go to a committee within VHC that helps horses.

We brought in \$8472.38 and spent \$9260.22 so far this year.

Mike Benoit made the motion to approve as read. 2nd by Karen Blow. So moved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Brenda read the membership report sent by Terry Rose as follows: 146 addresses which compares to 130 addresses on 5/20/12. 240 names with 215 voting rights which compares to 210 names with 188 voting rights. 93 email addresses which compares to 84 email addresses who get newsletters via email.

12 Lifetime, 10 Business, 65 Family, 9 Farm/Club, 50 Individual, 0 Junior. Breakdown by County: Addison - 9, Bennington - 3, Calendonias - 8, Chittenden - 21, Essex - 2, Franklin - 10, Grand Isle - 1, Lamoille - 11, Orange - 14, Orleans - 11, Rutland - 3, Washington - 19, Windham - 2, Windsor - 8, Out of State - 24 and we swap 5 newsletters. Cindy Cross-Greenia is no longer a member.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Ken reported that the Vermont Farm Bureau is working for the horse people through their magazine "**VERMONT FENCES**" and lobby for us also.

Ken attended the VT Wildlife Management Area meeting in Montpelier in regards to closing off trails to horses, bikers and hikers. He said there were only 3 horse people there to represent the horseback riders. He is hoping he can work with the VT Farm Bureau on this issue.

Ken has received a letter from Greg Western from Cross Vermont Trail Association, Inc. explaining a project to repair a section of trail in East Montpelier damaged by the flood of 2011. Ken asked Morris to contact Greg about the VHC trail fund for assistance.

The Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is still in the works with ACT 250.

Ken is working on getting the filming done for the public service announcement. It will be shot on September 19th from 1:30 to 4:30 from Patricia Branon's farm in Fairfield, VT. Vermont Farm Bureau, UVM, Guy's Farm & Yard, and Tony's Tack Shop are all donating money to help pay for the cost. The VHC share will be \$250.00. Morris made the motion for VHC to pay the \$250.00 up front. 2nd by Karen Blow. So moved. Ken presented a script and there were lots of comments to add to it. There is a time limit so he will see what he can do. Betsy Greene would put this on UTUBE. The announcement will be played on WCAX & WPTZ.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

American Horse Council: No report.

Tunbridge Annual Trail Ride: Karen reported she has 80 people signed up and September 10th is the cut off day.

Equine Emergency Fund: No report.

Farm Bureau: No report.

Groton State Park: No report.

Large Animal Technical Rescue: No report.

Newsletter: Carmel Stone has resigned. Jess Taylor may be interested.

Northeast Kingdom Equestrian Trails (NEKET): Chuck Fergus presented a report of the NEKET system which is on file. He also submitted a letter of goals and needs for a better trail system that is on file. Chuck brought up the fact that the south area we ride in is also part of a Wildlife Management Area. Mike Benoit brought up the subject of new maps with GPS coordinates that should be done. Chuck had that also in his report. Mike also said there are still opportunities to add trails in the North area near the Bloomfield Store. Sharon Paton has been helping maintain trails and reporting any problems to the committee. Martha Benoit is the chair person of the NEKET committee. benoit.martha@yahoo.com

Parade Group: No report.

Riding and Driving: Brenda reported there were four new rewards achieved by riders. Report is on file.

Scholarship (general 4H): Missy Abbott talked about the “**River of Life**” youth camp and how youth from her club went with our scholarship help. Missy has a slide show she would like to show. Morris received a letter of thanks from an attendee. Morris has also received a request recently from a youth for help in southern VT.

Scholarship (Cliff/Floyd): No report.

Trail Maintenance Fund: Morris said this is a matching fund grant for up to \$ 350.00. Other horse groups can apply for this.

Web Site: Ken has listed the VHC Tunbridge Ride. There are horse services linked from our site. Example: 32 farriers, stables, veterinarians, horse activities, etc. He wants to have a donate Pay Pal account set up for VHC. Equine Site gives us a 1 hour update each month for \$ 35.00.

Safety: Karen Blow is listed as committee chair but she said she is not.

Vermont Humane Federation: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

VHC Equine Policy Committee: This is being reviewed by the current directors and the Vermont Farm Bureau.

Board of Directors: Patricia Branon reported that the directors met on June 12th, 2012 in regards to Cindy Cross-Greenia's letter and had no findings of wrong doing. Mike Benoit reported that Large Animal Technical Rescue (LATR) is being worked on for being a state level rescue. Carmel Stone is working on this.

Happy Birthday to Patricia Branon :)

NEW BUSINESS:

Next meeting date: January 2013 Looking at dates available around the 12th. Brenda will contact for availability for the Berlin Extension Service meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am. Everyone headed for their horses and the trail !!!

Respectfully Submitted by Brenda Lasell, Secretary