

Vermont Horse Council Annual Meeting
Held at the Stonegrill Restaurant in Morrisville, Vermont on
March 17, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Ken Hoeppe. With a few exceptions, the secretary minutes were approved by Morris Lasell, seconded by Ilene Douglas

Corrections include: info from American Horse Council is in the secretary book but was not included in the newsletter (Ilene Douglas)

The September minutes were not on the website (Jim Deberville)

Introduction of Marta Merrick as a new member from Milton Vermont

Treasurers Report was approved by Phyllis Civitello, seconded by Carmel Stone

Membership report attached

President's report:

2012 reports in the last newsletter

Horse person of the year presented to Carmel Stone for 2013

Vice President's report by Patricia Branon: recognition of VHC member Terry Rose

Committee Reports:

American Horse Council by Ilene Douglas:

Lobbying at present on

Immigration reform

Identification marking for horses

No sale of horses for human consumption

PSA has put VHC in the public eye

Annual Tunbridge Ride by Karen Blow

Caterer prices are the same so prices will stay the same this year

A band, the Phil in the Blanks will be the entertainment Saturday night

Farm Bureau by Bev McMullin

Bill number H202, bill for horse farms

A person that makes more than half their income in the equine business qualifies

Betsy Greene, Chittenden County agent worked hard on this bill

The bill was started in 2013 but will begin next year, 2014

Meg Costello pointed out that there was no mention of 'driving horses' in the bill. Just riding, training, boarding, etc. The bill was meant to include all equine activities.

Newsletter by Vickie Smith

Carmel has been a lot of help. Thank you from Vickie Smith and also to Terry Rose. Vickie had 8 or 10 members who sent emails or called and thanked her for taking over the newsletter.

NEKET by Martha Benoit

The committee is working on updating the map.

Ilene Douglas asked about Plum Creek. That topic was dropped until Martha is up to speed on it.

Parade Group

Vickie Smith and Suzanne Hoepfner have saddle pads and would like to get them to the Parade group riders

Riding & Driving by Brenda Lasell

New Members: 1-29-13	Meg Costello	Individual rider
2-2-13	Lois Deberville	Individual rider

2013 Awards Achieved:

1-29-13 Karen Rosemark & "Mike"
150 hour patch total hours of 163.5

Scholarships (General) by Morris Lasell

Asking for an additional \$400 from the general fund, seconded by Betsy Greene, all approved

Scholarship (Clif/Floyd) by Morris Lasell

Sue Altland was not present at the meeting but Morris thought there was 1 application already received

Website by Ken Hoepfner

Website chair is now Tammy Simon.

Unfinished Business:

Everything Equine Trail challenge: Roger

Terry motioned to take \$100 from Jane Thompson fund to sponsor an obstacle at the trail challenge in Jane's memory. Tammy Simon seconded

Tammy volunteered for 6 am Sunday check-in

Doug Smith needs a stop watch, score helper for Meg, 50/50 raffle volunteers for the event.

Send any information about the Trail Challenge to Roger or Doug Smith

New Trail Ride: Patricia Branon

Memorial Day weekend ride in Lunenburg, VT on Tug Mountain and Presidential mountain. Missy Abbot coordinating the trails on her mother's property. Property owner is Teresa McMann. 5 to 7 mile loops. There was a suggestion the May meeting could be at the trail ride

Entry and limited liability forms and trail information will be available on the web.

Newsletter: Vickie Smith

Deadline is soon.

63 members still get newsletter via snail mail

New Business:

By-Laws: Grammatical changes were made

Example: Ilene Douglas asked if a person can succeed himself?. Morris explained it does not say in the by-laws and that an officer CAN succeed himself.

Ken called for an acceptance of the by-laws with corrections. All approved

Nomination Committee:

Terry Rose nominated Carmel Stone for President from the floor – She declined.

New officers for 2013

President – Patricia Branon

Betsy closed, Ilene 2nded

Vice President – Meg Costello

Mike Benoit closed, Betsy 2nded

Secretary – Terry Rose

Betsy closed, Ilene 2nded

Treasurer – Martha Benoit

Betsy closed, Mike Benoit 2nded

Directors:

1 year term: Tim Buskey

Closed by Betsy, 2nded by Mike Benoit

2 yr term: Doug Smith

Phyllis Civitello

Roger Morin

Closed by Morris, 2nded by Betsy

Secretary cast one ballot for each, Betsy 2nded

Nominations for 3 year term were Ken Hoepfner, Mike Benoit, Carmel Stone, Morris Lasell. There were only 3 seats available so a paper vote was done

Directors for 3 year term are: Mike Benoit

Carmel Stone

Morris Lasell

Secretary cast one ballot for each, Betsy 2nded

Next meeting date is May 11th at noon

Location possibly Three Stallion Inn depending on price (as of time of printing, Three Stallion did not work out. We are Going to meet at Vermont Technical College in Conant Building) Bring your lawn chair. Picnic meeting at noon.