

Vermont Horse Council Meeting
Held September 6, 2014
At the NEKET Trail Ride, Victory, VT

There were 19 members present. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Phyllis Civitello to accept the report as printed in the July 2014 newsletter. 2nd by Doug Smith. So moved.

Treasurer's Report: Martha sent a report thru Septmeber 4th, 2014. Morris Lasell made the motion to accept as printed. 2nd by Missy Abbott. So moved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: No Report

Safety: Morris Lasell asked for someone to take over his position. The radio PSA's still need to be done. Lynn Knight suggested some professional help with this. She will contact Sarah Spencer for help. Heidi Krantz has received more safety vests that are available and will be at the Tunbridge Ride also. She has more small sizes now available.

RAIN GEAR BREAK @ 9:25

Tunbridge Ride: Karen Blow was not present. Patricia said that on August 31st there were 72 signed up.

Equine Emergency Fund: No report

Newsletter: No report

American Horse Council: Ilene Douglas was not here yet. Later in minutes.

NEKET: Mike Benoit was not present. Question of where is Plum Creek? Near Island Pond. There are some Fish and Wildlife questions in this area. Ilene Douglas asked about our NEKET contract, if it has been renewed. Not sure where we are at. She asked if Doug Morin is the contact for this. Ilene would like to check out trails in the Plum Creek area. Sharon Paton would like to help her.

Web Site: Lynn Knight is trying to keep it upgraded. If members notice that something is missing please send her the information and she will add. After this fall Lynn will have time to work on a newer version.

Riding and Driving Program: Brenda Lasell reported on 5-29-14 Judy Davis & "Crescent Hill Encore" added 139 ½ hours for a total of 3149 ¾ hours; on 7-29-14 Karen Rosemark in the Individual rider program added 50 hours for a total of 361 ½ hours and on 8-3-14 Phyllis Civitello in the Individual rider program turned in her first 106 ¾ hours.

In August Brenda received a very sad note from Judy Davis that she had to put her beloved horse "Crescent Hill Encore alias Corey" down due to a strangulating lipoma involving the small intestine. "Corey" was 28 years young. On the good side Judy has found a new horse named "Rocky". It was agreed to offer Judy a continuing membership with her new horse starting with new hours.

Scholarship (general 4H): Morris Lasell said he will request money later to replenish funds for 2015. Missy Abbott said the children really appreciate the help and some would not be able to go to camp without financial help. She gave Morris a picture of the children in the “River of Life Horse Camp # 2” with a written thank you to the VHC for their support signed by recipients of the scholarships.

Scholarship (Clif/Floyd): No report

Trail Maintenance Fund: Morris Lasell reported he did not use the funds requested at the last meeting in May. Groton State Forest used their own labor and material. Morris would like to do another place if the State approves it. There is a loop in the Groton State Forest with a corridor bridge that is not safe for horses. Morris hopes the state will let him replace it with a plank crossing. Sharon Paton says there is a washed out area on Bennett Road on the Kirby Mountain Loop in NEKET that will need work in the future. Sharon and her husband did a temporary fix so we could ride it this year.

Facebook: Doug Smith reported 228 followers. Doug asked members to send him posts and pictures to post on the page.

Groton State Forest: Phyllis Civitello reported that she has met with Jack Brooks along with Brenda Lasell to help remark the trails with a new map. Brenda requested to have Jeanette Cole’s name replaced as a contact with Phyllis Civitello’s name. It was okayed by Patricia Branon.

Parade Group: It was reported that there is not a current committee in place. Brenda reported that Terry Rose sent an email stating the parade “things” are at Thelma Murray’s in Randolph. Morris Lasell will contact some folks he thought might be interested.

Farm Bureau: No Report

American Horse Council: Ilene Douglas thanked everyone for her Horseperson of the Year Award again and said it meant so much to her. She was unable to attend the AHC meeting this year. She said their focus this year was “Where have all the horses gone?” The horse numbers are down and are at the same level as they were during the depression. According to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture the state with the most horses is Texas. The law for veterinarians to continue carrying controlled substances has passed. Ilene also mentioned that the Coalition of Unwanted Horses (part of the AHC) have funds to help folks to geld stallions if they need help.

OLD BUSINESS

Heidi Krantz reported the Lamoille Valley Trails have some sections opened now. She also said there are some groups that are concerned over horse manure on the trails.

Heidi said the insurance for VHC officers and directors is now in place.

Heidi also talked about the VT statute pertaining to horses and traffic. It does not state a specific speed to pass a horse on the roadway. It is very vague and some people do not relate to the current language. Heidi asked for permission to meet with legislatures to rewrite the existing statute to change the law. Heidi would also like to meet with State police and local police to enforce the law.

Karen Rosemark spoke about how she is helping to rescue horses in the NEK area and asked how she could get help for money, tack, blankets, etc. We currently do not have a committee to help people working in this area. Patricia Branon said she could bring this up to the board about creating a new rescue fund.

NEKET Annual Trail Ride: Missy Abbott said she marked out the two trails that we currently use with ribbons so folks could follow them with more ease. She also has put up more new markers on the trail. She would like to get colored arrows for the trails to add to the existing markers. The potluck tonight is planned for 6pm.

Everything Equine: Doug Smith said we made \$1200.00 from the extreme trail challenge. Doug said if we plan on doing it again next year in 2015 that he needs more help or he is not going to do it. He needs someone to attend weekly meetings starting in October with Champlain Valley Expo as he can not do this. This is a requirement if we are to continue doing the extreme trail challenge. Are there any takers?

Vermont Fish and Wildlife: Patricia Branon said this is still a work in progress.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Law Update: Lynn Knight has received suggestions from Marta Merrick and Morris Lasell. Vickie Smith has not contacted Lynn still in response to the changes. Lynn wants to meet with them to try to have them rewrite by January 1, 2015 so they can present them to the directors to be warned for the annual meeting.

The next meeting will be January 18, 2015. Place TBA

Motion to adjourn made by Ilene Douglas, 2nd by Doug Smith. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Lasell for Terry Rose, Secretary