

Vermont Horse Council Meeting

Held May 30, 2014

At the Residence of Morris and Brenda Lasell

17 members attended

Meeting called to order by President Patricia Branon at 5:10 pm.

Patricia started the meeting with a huge thank you to Brenda and Morris for hosting the meeting at their field the night before their big Dog River Horse Club St. Jude trail ride. It was very generous of them to allow Vermont Horse Council to meet there.

Secretary report postponed until later in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report accepted and approved. Motion made by Charlotte Mills, Seconded by Carmel Stone

Committee Reports:

Safety: Morris Lasell reported that a PSA wording for radio is being worked on.

Heidi Krantz reported that more Safety Vests will be ordered. The rate is \$26.80 if less than 30 are ordered and \$23.80 if more than 30 are ordered. The turn around time is 7 days. Carmel made the motion for a link on our site to be provided, we order 15 mediums and 10 smalls. Karen Blow seconded

Tunbridge Ride: Karen Blow reported that 3 applications have already been received. The committee is in the process of talking about trails, etc. Last year we had 134 riders with a few day riders. The question was asked why we capped the amount at 150 and the answer is that the Fair Grounds only has 100 hook ups and stalls. There is too much work and mess for any more than that. The arrival time is 1:00 pm Friday, no earlier. If you come early, you will be charged a 1 day fee. Also, you cannot stay later than Sunday. If you do, you must clean up.

Equine Emergency: Not a committee anymore. No report

Newsletter: Charlotte Mills was recognized for the great job she has done since last summer. Please try to get interesting things to her any time you have it. She will work hard to get it into the next newsletter. Charlotte is working to get chart of contacts cleaned up and the file format to send correctly. Tim suggested an annual treasurers report from Martha Benoit be provided.

American Horse Council: Ilene is in New Jersey so could not make the meeting. She suggests everyone look up the AHC site and check out their updates and new events as they are important.

NEKET: Mike Benoit reported that Ilene has attended meetings and has kept us informed. We have state access. Some trails go through Plum Creek. We have to set meetings and establish trails to work on and get them on to the approved map.

NEKET ride: Missy and Sally are the committee chairs to run this ride. Martha will call Missy or Sally to see when they want the porta pottys. The gates in that area are not open yet. Vermont Parks and Recreation need to be contacted to get all gates open. Volunteers need to ride and mark the trail for the ride and mark way points.

Website: Lynn Knight reported no changes have been made yet. Patricia is trying to talk with Lynn at some point. The link to other websites for other club members was brought up. But, as of right now VHC has no club members. The Board will establish a policy for members who join and want to advertise on the VHC website. They should be a member of VHC.

Riding & Driving: Brenda reported (after the meeting was adjourned) that two new riders joined the program. Peg Dean as an individual rider and Sarah Thompson and her horse Jolly. Diane Kane achieved 146 hours as an individual rider.

Scholarship: Morris Lasell reported that the treasurer has provided checks for 9 young people to go to camps. Those checks will be going out to the recipients with a cover letter.

Trail Maintenance Fund: Morris Lasell reported that a bridge in Groton is not safe for horses. The land owner may drill a new well and would have to upgrade the bridge at that time so we have not taken any action to fix that bridge yet. It was suggested the committee use Trail Maintenance Funds money to fix the bridge when the time comes. Morris donated the materials and the delivery and time. Heidi Krantz made the motion to pledge not more than \$200 for bridge work at Groton. Seconded by Martha Benoit. After much discussion from Carol Ball who had most recently ridden those trails, the motion was withdrawn. No need to vote.

Facebook: Doug Smith reported that VHC has 200 plus followers.

Groton: Phyllis Civitello reported that Jack Brooks was contacted and wants a work day to put in gravel and culverts. Carol Ball reported the trails looked great.

Parade group: no report but it was discussed that Jody Barna still has saddle pads and helmet covers. Patricia is going to represent VHC as the grand marshall at Vermont Dairy Days in Enosburg.

Farm Bureau: no report

Trails & Greenways: no report

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail: Heidi Krantz reported that construction has started in the St. Johnsbury to Morrisville section. The committee needs help VAST raise of \$1 million. There are currently over 95

miles of trails open to horseback riders. LVRT needs input into how the trail heads can be set up for truck and trailers loaded with horses. The people responsible for building the trail heads may not know what equestrians need. At this time Ken Hoeppner and Heidi Krantz are the only people representing the horse community at LVRT. Anyone interested in helping with this project, contact Heidi. It was also noted that Act 250 has been an issue with trail heads.

The secretary minutes were read and accepted. Motion made by Morris Lasell, seconded by Doug Smith

Old Business:

Vermont Fish & Wildlife – no report

Groton – Vickie Smith reported that Jeannette Cole has cancelled the 25 mile ride at Groton she had advertised.

New Business:

Farm bureau membership: Carmel Stone was asked if VHC would consider becoming a VFB member at the organizational level. That cost is about \$525 annually. This would cover all 14 counties which works out to \$37/county. No discussion or motion made. No action taken.

Extreme Trail Challenge: Doug Smith reported that VHC cleared over \$1,000 at Everything Equine's 2014 trail challenge. We as a group need to decide if we want to continue to do this. If so, Roger Morin needs to be replaced on the Fair grounds committee. He has moved to New York and can no longer attend the weekly meetings. The meetings are every Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 pm.

Laura Hamilton offered to help if VHC would consider basing the trail challenge on Medieval Times. She and her group (Society of Creative Anachronism or SCA) would be willing to help at the event if the pattern included obstacles from Medieval times. It was encouraged that Laura join the committee and help design the course, but it was stressed that participants and volunteers do need to be members of the Vermont Horse Council.

Vickie Smith indicated that the Fair Grounds were not easy to work with. There was a mix up with general admission tickets for the grooms. There needs to be better screening of participants as one entry was not skilled enough to do this course. Currently Tom Oddy gets all of the videos and the entry forms. Vickie would like to see VHC get the entry forms and the money, so there is proper reporting of funds and reliable contact information on our part. Plus, she would like to enforce that the fair grounds get one volunteer to view the entry tape and two people from VHC get to view the tape. Vickie feels she was not included in all of the decisions to cut or keep entries.

If VHC continues with this event, Doug suggests Extreme Trail Challenge become a standing committee with a budget and volunteers. Meanwhile, Doug will type up a chore list and put it in the July newsletter.

Next meeting: September 6th at the NEKET ride. Time to be determined.

By-Laws: Charlotte Mills has present Patricia Branon, President and Terry Rose, Secretary with the current version of the by-laws, to be signed and dated. That was done and the secretary filed the by-laws with the secretary minutes.

Motion to adjourn made by Mary Gilman, seconded by Charlotte Mills, meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Birthday cake was enjoyed by all (Carmel Stone's birthday)

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Rose, Secretary