



# VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL

"Creating a unified equine voice"

[www.vthorsecouncil.org](http://www.vthorsecouncil.org)

## General Membership Meeting Notes Pond Hill Ranch

Present: Sue Miller, Jeannette Cole, Jean Audet – Board members  
Vicki and Doug Smith, Colleen O'Rourke, Heidi Krantz- members

Welcome by Colleen O'Rourke – history and description of Pond Hill Ranch –located in Castleton and Poultney; Land bought in 1929 Five generations, ranch built in 1955. rodeos, in June – Aug: other events and shows all season. Can come use fees. Major business – lease horses VA to ME - 810 head leased. Sell 100- 150 at end of season. Sit on every horse before they move to a camp. 100 round bales/week of hay in winter. Boarding facility with 52 stalls – with a waiting list. Drill team. With 21 riders ages 16 – 62..

Characteristics of a drill team horse – needs to be bold – confident going through other horses, as in a charge. Lot of Quarter Horses and Paints, Appaloosas; able to rate speed; calm under pressure; able to handle crowd. Ed Ellis is the Drill Master. More men participating than in the past. 11 outfits. Team has to be divisible by 4. A drill is generally two songs, 5 minutes and 16 drills.

New drill every year – write in winter, then try to walk it, then ride it. Train with dressage letters, but don't use any markers in demos. Horses respond to the whistles. Challenge to overcome horses anticipating the next move. Walking more during training.

No Secretary's report – last minutes not posted on page.

Vote on secretary's resignation – Jean Audet made a motion to accept resignation of Diana Huntley as secretary -. Jeannette Seconded. Passed unanimously. Looking for a new secretary. President will write some blogs looking for a new secretary. Jeannette will put in newsletter.

Treasurer's report – reports handed out. Sue Miller to send to Board members.  
Jeannette explained program income – all income from upcoming equitation clinic. Still have 6 slots open. Raises money for the scholarship fund – have \$450 in expenses. Need to promote to fill slots. Is posted on website.

Memberships coming in, business memberships about even. Doug questioned difference on Statement of Position between acct. 1050 Saving Acct is \$0, and at bottom of page is \$12,964.08 Need to clarify with Nancy.

Jean would like the financials ahead of time and have a phone meeting to ask questions of Nancy.

Tabled acceptance until Nancy can answer questions at a phone meeting – in the near future.

Equine Activities Committee – Jeannette – next meeting is June 9 Working Equitation, then Physical Therapist on July 13. At Sarah Field in Barre. Ask port-a-let company to donate for membership.

Have not heard about a ride at Willoughby.

Interest in a trail obstacle clinic – Doug and Vicki will research.

FPR agreement is signed. Tentative meeting June 14 to discuss next steps. Need to ID projects – Can we put the Willoughby connector trail on the radar for a fall project.

Can we put all the potential trail work on an agenda for the next meeting – include Peacham Pond work.

May 23 meeting to organize trail work in Rochester – first trail day is May 28. Jean to attend May 23 and then help to promote.

Services Committee –

Admin Committee –

Promotions Committee - -What is the status of the General Membership brochure – We believe Gloria has the content to complete this – Sue Miller to check in. Bicycle article to go out to 4 Legs and a Tail. Still need a newsletter editor. Web site – Heidi will research options for website formats – have a membership page; ask people to join to receive blog. – send to Jeannette. Send an email out to all blog members reminding them to join.

Brief discussion about fees for programs –

Discussion about Farm Show participation -Jeannette will continue conversation with Farm Show Committee

AHC – Jean Audet made a motion to renew membership at \$300. Seconded by Jeannette seconded. Passed unanimously. Contact to be determined.

Study – 2 grants submitted – hope to hear by end of June.

Equine Summit Oct. 24 at VTC.

Jeannette Cole made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jean Audet, so moved.

