

Vermont horse council
Board meeting
September 12, 2016 at Waterbury Public Library

Meeting called to order by President Heidi Krantz at 4:10 pm.

Get well soon card and good wishes for Belinda Brown who shattered her knee cap at the grocery store.

Agenda was approved with the following changes:

Groton Raffle tickets was added

Grant Opportunities was added

Matt Rose clinic was added

Present: Officers: Heidi Krantz, President, Morris Lasell, Vice President, Gloria Bruce, Treasurer (via phone) Terry Rose, Secretary/ Board: Jean Audet, Jessy Riley, Doug Smith, Jeannette Cole, Lucinda Newman, Phyllis Civitello/ Guest: Vickie Smith

Financials were discussed and approved

Discussion ensued regarding newsletter copies for the ride for non-horse council member riders. That expense will be 'charged' to that committee. There were about 70 additional names

Discussion about expiration dates on allocated monies on the treasurer report. Jeannette made the motion to approve the treasurer report, seconded by Jessy. All approved. So moved.

Meeting minutes were discussed and approved

Motion made by Morris, seconded by Jessy; all approved. So moved

Membership Committee:

Doug Smith reported that currently there are 20 life members and 151 members for 2016

New Brochures were discussed:

Jean Audet did mentioned there was a picture of a rider with no helmet. Questioned it.

Thank you goes to Pam Knight for the design and Tim who worked with Pam and Jeff and Keith Blow from Accura printing who printed 250 of them at a great rate.

Carmel and Heidi are attending a Road Rally in Montpelier on the 13th. Unfortunately, no horses are allowed this year.

Welch's Hardware is having an Open House October 1st and would like VHC members to volunteer to bring horses. Morris said he might attend.

Jessy reports that the Summit is going well. The RSVP date is September 30th. About 85 organizations and key players have been invited, including Department of Ag, State Vet, Dept. of Forest Parks & Recreation, Department of Tourism and VT Farm Bureau.

The summit will be a 4-hour meeting at VTC to bring together key players in the industry to share ideas, problems and solutions. Details about the Summit are available on googledocs

Barbara Lindburg, head of equine business at Cazenovia College in Cazenovia, NY is the Key Note Speaker. She will volunteer her time but will be reimbursed for hotel and travel.

Committee still needs: donations, volunteers, and attendees to reply

Jean reports that Dr. Matt Rose has offered to give a hands-on 1 to 2-hour presentation about equine lameness at Michelle Kingston's pony club facility. Date was set at November 5th at 9:30 or 10:00 am. Price is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Jean will make up a flyer for the event, hoping Gloria can help with the layout. ***(as of 9/30/16, this event has been postponed until spring of 2017)***

Rochester trails need more time than VHC can commit at this time. Angus McCluster would like horse people to be involved in creating more trails in that area. Mr. Becker owns 2,000-3,000 acres and there will be a meeting. But, Heidi suggested the Board has too much to focus on at this time.

Pond Woods Wildlife management area is doing their long range plans and Jean was told there was a bit of door opening for multi-use trails. Heidi suggested Jean ask Jim Nickerson for help with the pre-proposal and mapping.

Heidi would like to start thinking about creating an Equine Directory. If not in hard form, at least on the website. It should include private businesses, horse hotels, etc.

Phyllis: The Groton committee thanks Jean for getting the new panels and Terry and family for getting the panels to Groton.

Currently there are enough panels to complete 1 paddock. With \$1069.94 VHC could have 3 additional paddocks. An estimate from Runnings in Claremont, NH was offered. The Board voted to front the \$1069.94 from the general fund and put it back with sales from the quilt raffle ticket sales.

That estimate was 4 12-foot panels with built in gate, 1 12-foot panel and 2 10-foot panels. Motion was made to use \$800 from the general fund plus the money already in the Groton funds to purchase panels from Runnings made by Jean, seconded by Morris. All approved.

Morris: With the expiration dates in place on the treasurer report, if monies run out of time, he would like to see the money put into the scholarship funds or back into the general fund.

Discussion ensued regarding the NEKET committee and how monies get into the fund. There was an assumption that \$5.00 from every membership would automatically go into the NEKET fund. Some of us remember that NEKET used to pay for ½ of the VHC insurance and all of the other expenses of that committee. It came to a point in the organization where NEKET stopped running itself as a club within the VHC organization and would be a committee of VHC with all the expectations of the other committees including budget and requests for money out of the general fund when and if need be.

Morris made a motion to move that the NEKET committee be like any other committee. No portion of the membership fee is designated to any specific committee and when money is needed, all requests come to the board. Seconded by Jeannette. All approved. So moved.

Discussion regarding a \$20 per person charge at the NEKET ride. The committee was hoping to raise funds by charging for the 4-day event on Victory Road in North Concord, VT. There was some resistance to that charge by the riders as VHC's membership now includes the NEKET fee.

Motion made by Morris to allow committees to do fundraisers for specific needs. The committee will come to the Board with their proposals for fundraising and for their proposed budgets. Seconded by Lucina. All approved, so moved.

By-Laws:

Jeannette offered to help with wording on the Warning of the By-Laws. The Secretary will send the Warning. This should be done by September 27nd in order to be properly warned for the October 22nd meeting. If the new by-law changes are not passed by the October meeting, some officers and directors will be ineligible to run for their current position again.

Membership: Doug reported that some members request a Credit Card acceptance on the website for renewing membership. There is a cost of 2.75% of each Swipe on Square or 3.5% of each card reader. VHC would lose 6% of membership income. Paypal was discussed but no motion or was made.

A listed a few items consider:

- Take off option of NEKET map being mailed on membership application
- Change membership fees

Heidi reported that there is a grant through the Department of Tourism which she and GMHA would partner on. Heidi will work on this.

Carmel had an offer to sell VHC vests through a warehousing company. This would allow us to make some money selling merchandise but VHC would not have to store or mail out any items.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Motion made by Phyllis, seconded by Jeannette; all approved, so moved.