

## **Vermont Horse Council Annual Meeting**

Saturday - January 20, 2018

Charlmont Restaurant

Morrisville, Vermont

President Heidi Krantz called the Annual Meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Farm Bureau - President, Heidi Krantz recognized and welcomed Joe Tisbert of the Vermont Farm Bureau to the Annual Meeting.

Patricia Mulroney and Carmel Stone will be attending the Vermont Farm Show at the Farm Bureau open agriculture discussion on January 31, 2018.

2/23/& 3/15 will be Farm Bureau Legislative Days – All are welcome to come and speak with legislators and promote horse interests. If you are interested in attending Farm Bureau events you are welcome. If a VHC board member can help you regarding Legislative Days, please don't hesitate to contact them.

Introduction of Guests - Dave Sequist - DVM from Morrisville/Stowe area has just retired after 50 years. Joey Wagner, DVM, has replaced him. In addition, Tyler McGuil, DVM, is a new vet in the area. Dr. McGill is a native of St, Johnsbury, VT. Most recently he has been working in Connecticut.

Horse Person of the Year - awarded to Becky Williams who has worked with Dr. Dave Sequist since 1980. Slideshow was presented about Becky's work with horse rescue. Becky is a certified vet tech who founded Horses Home Again, Inc. - a non- profit, which connects unwanted horses with new owners. She does not do on site rescue. She raises money and helps law enforcement with seized horses. She receives calls from all over the country. They are relinquished animals which owners cannot care for so have given up rather than be fined and seized which keeps the police out of the loop. Her organization is funded entirely with donations.

Some key comments:

1. If you know of a horse in trouble, first know the laws in your state.
2. Observe and document: This can only be done from a public area, or evidence will be thrown out of court.
3. Take pictures with date and time; plus note if you see food, shelter and water. Most important is the body condition. (Henneke body condition chart is used to track horse's condition.
4. Report to Animal cruelty.com an anonymous site to submit a report.

5. Police want to be first responders; call them and then follow-up (frequent contact might be needed until issues are addressed)
6. Volunteer to foster an animal
7. Take the four-part course given by Vermont Humane Federation on Animal Cruelty (<http://www.vermonthumane.org/animal-cruelty/training/>).

Recognition of exiting VHC board members – Phyllis Civetello, Terry Rose, Lucinda Newman, Jessica Riley, Cortni Cleveland and Meg Costello .

#### Business Meeting/Election

- October 27, 2017 membership meeting minutes were read. Motion was made to accept minutes by Dan Boyer; seconded by Morris Lasell. Unanimously accepted.
- Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Yearend financial assets (12/31/17) were \$10,032. Total expenditures for 2017 were \$16,522. Net operating revenue was down \$6557.32 versus prior year. It was a difficult year personnel wise because of two treasurer resignations in 2017 due to personal reasons for both officers. \$765 was raised for scholarships in 2017, however the awards given for 2017 were greater than money raised and therefore scholarship awards will be limited in 2018. A \$1900 grant from Department of Recreation, State of Vermont was awarded to VHC to complete the corrals at Groton State Forest. A motion was made by Doug Smith to accept the treasurer report; seconded by Carmel Stone. Passed unanimously.
- Heidi Krantz reviewed 2017 accomplishments and 2018 plans. A handout was provided for members. Members were encouraged to contact the VHC board with any projects of interest to them.
- Jeannette Cole recommended some scholarship funds be used to provide free educational clinics to membership. Some possible topics include:
  - "Tellin Ain't Teaching – clinic for trainers and instructors
  - Your Horse's Palette. -mouths and proper biting
  - Riding With Your Mind Overcoming fears in riding.
  - Joint clinic- with horse and rider. Massage therapist for horse and rider
- Trail rides were discussed. Consideration of 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Reciprocity Ride as a scholarship fundraiser was presented. Phyllis Civetello will be scheduling a workday at Groton State Forest in springtime. The NEKET ride needs more volunteers if it is going to occur in 2018. Patrice Mulroney, owner of River Hill Farm in Williston is working with the town to conserve the Catamount Outdoor Center (a non-profit center in Williston). The Catamount Outdoor Center wants to conserve land and

provide trail access for recreational uses. Patrice is on a task force working with the town planning committee to represent the horse community, and advocate for horse trails. Patrice owns a farm adjoining the property, and is interested in sponsoring a possible ride in the future. Heidi Krantz commented regarding the importance of VHC involved since there is a lot of misinformation on the trails used by horses.

- Annual meeting guest speaker Bonnie Timmerman spoke to the membership on proper saddle fitting principles (both English and Western). She coaches the UVM equestrian team and has training in equine massage. She handed out several documents to members that included the material she covered.
- Joe Tisbert from Vt. Farm Bureau- The Farm Bureau is working hard to represent all farms/agriculture at state and national level. Asking for feedback, and what VHC needs help with, such as funding and grants. VHC will send economic study info. The farm bureau is trying to present a unified voice, and we are a big presence in agriculture.
- Election Results: Ballot Counters = Meg Costello, Bev McMullen and Belinda Brown
  - 30 Ballots were cast via secret ballot. Election results were as follows:

President - Jeannette Cole

VP - Sue Miller

Treasurer – Nancy Palermo – Lee

Secretary – Sue Boyer

Board Members

Jean Audet

Peter Otto

Michelle Grald

Heidi Krantz

Motion was made to adjourn the annual meeting by Belinda Brown and seconded by Carmel Stone. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

#### **ATTENDANCE LIST**

Tyler McGuil DVM

Paul Gingras

Joe Tisbert - President - Vt. Farm Bureau

Belinda Brown

Sandy Adams

Nancy Grant

Heidi Krantz

Gloria Bruce

Sandy Bender

Karen Gabarino

Becky Williams

Dave Sequist DVM

Beverly McMullin

Jean Audet  
Robin Severy  
Patrice Mahoney  
Vickie Smith  
Mary Willmuth  
Carmel Stone  
Phyllis Civitello  
Morris Lasell  
Bonnie ?  
Cathy Wright  
Linda Ward  
Heather Holmes  
Chelle Gerald  
Stephanie Appleton  
Dan Boyer

Susan Boyer  
Don Tobey  
Judith Otto  
Peter Otto  
Sue Miller  
Molly Hutchins  
Patty Hamond  
Stuart Hammond  
Doug Smith  
Jeannette Cole  
Meg Costello