

Vermont Horse Council BOD/Membership Meeting  
September 17, 2020  
Via Zoom

Attendees: Sharon Stearns, Sue Miller, Heidi Krantz, Jane LeGard, Robin Simpson, Jim Nickerson and Jeannette Cole. Jean was absent due to family conflicts, Sue Esty was also absent, Sue Miller lost connectivity part way through the meeting. Meeting was called to order by President Heidi Krantz at 7:30 PM.

Secretary Report: The August minutes from the face to face meeting at Groton Forest were read and approve unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Statement of Activity was reviewed. A quilt raffle is ongoing, led by Sue Miller to raise funds for the scholarship committee. To date, \$446 has been raised. Ending balances bank statement September is \$14488.58 savings and \$3734.29 checking. \$6300 payment for economic impact study is due at the end of October and the Council insurance is due also (approximately \$500). Jeannette is in contact with the insurance company (Allen Financial) to finish up this work. A motion to receive the financial statements as presented was unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee - Bev McMullin and Gretchen Dean volunteered to work on this committee, but per the meeting of the BOD in August, now openings exist for 2021 slate.

Tech Soup - technical nuances exist with the online back up to a desk top version, but Nancy cannot figure out how to do this work. Perhaps after October 15<sup>th</sup>, Sharon will have more time to help with this change over. Tech Soup will allow for a greatly reduced rate for our Quick Books application because of the Council's non-profit status.

FB Nonprofit status - Jane has been working on this to aid in the direct payment to our accounts for fund raising, but there have been problems with inputting terms to FB (they do not make this process easy). Still trying but getting discouraged.

Web Site - Sue Miller has been in touch with Michelle. Work is ongoing.

Farm Show - Jeannette continues to represent VHC on the Farm show board. The Farm Show board has decided to investigate a virtual option for the show and has moved the date of the event to February 2021.

Industry Summit - Jessica Riley is not available to assist. Thought is to roll out the Economic Impact Study at the event at the summit or at the annual meeting. Nothing has been decided at this time.

Trails - Jim reported that we are very close on expanding the trails in Willoughby. The culvert work has fixed itself so that work is off the docket. He is ready to do kick off for planning on state lands. District 3,4,5 have leadership but Districts 1 and 2 he has had no interest from any volunteers. He has sent out a kickoff memo to all parties. There was a bit of discussion about stakeholders (ECTRA, AERC, AQHA, etc.) for grant writing and coordination. The board also talked about West Springfield Reservoir and Herriman Reservoir regarding accessibility for equestrians. A discussion regarding the Victory Lands was also held per feedback to Sharon at the Dog River ride held there earlier in the month. A thank you note with volunteer stickers are to be sent to Jim Deberville by Jeannette. The trails discussion regarding Victory Lands continued regarding obtaining tax maps of private land holders. Jane was to work on obtaining these. Jeannette will need to include these as insured once they are determined.

Ascutney Event Oct. 03 - Barbara Gersner is organizing this event. It is an effort to include equestrians on these trails. Paula Waters is doing a flyer and hand out regarding this trail system.

Scholarship - nothing new reported.

Blogs - Robin has assignment for October Blog and Sharon has assignment for September Blog.

Equine Impact Study - Sharon is working with her daughter to do a short video to highlight the study. A discussion about what will be included in the video was held.  
**Motion: to transfer \$1600 (not to exceed) from the unrestricted savings general funds to the Impact Study account to fund the balance of the Equine Impact Study.** The motion was unanimously approved.

Decals and brochures - tabled for October meeting

Annual Report - assignment for all board members to do a short synopsis of what has been done in 2020 by each member.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm - Next meeting to be held on October 15 at 7 pm (this has subsequently been changed to October 22, 2020 at 7 pm). Zoom information for October 22, 2020 meeting: