

Vermont Horse Council BOD Meeting
September 26, 2019
Phone Conference Meeting

Sue Miller, VHC President at 4:30 pm, called the meeting to order. The following people were in attendance: Sue Miller, Heidi Krantz, Jim Nickerson, Gloria Bruce, Nicki Raneri and Jeannette Cole.

The Secretary minutes from the August 15 meeting were reviewed; a motion was made to accept and was unanimously approved.

The treasurer 's reports were reviewed; a motion was made to accept and was unanimously approved.

Heidi reported that VHC Economic Impact Study has received notification from USEF Trust that a grant of \$3000 has been awarded. With this award, the matching grant of \$2500 from Poulin Grain and Guy's Farm and Yard has been satisfied. The Study Fund now has attracted \$9894 of the \$12,600 needed. We have approximately \$2800 left to raise so that the survey can be drafted, conducted and tabulated. We are trying to have the tool ready for January so that we can be present at the Vermont Farm Show to begin surveying Vermont horse owners. Heidi wanted to remind all members that we have collectively raised a total of \$24000 when we are finished with this last fund raising push. Most importantly, this initiative satisfies a key priority outlined by membership in 2016 and started in 2017. This portion of the survey (how much Vermont horse owners spend annually on their equines) will be made available on line.

Sue led a discussion on the 2020 VHC Annual Meeting. She has obtained a speaker, Gianna Petito from Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. She will speak on proper manure management at equine facilities. Once Sue determines what date in January 2020 is good for Gianna, she will call Capital Plaza to secure a room and arrange food for the event. Notification for the Annual Meeting, Slate of Officer Candidates and any changes to the By-Laws must be warned thirty days prior to the event. We currently are looking for two BOD members (Peter Otto and Michelle Grald resignation) and a Secretary (Diane Huntley resignation). Jeannette's term (assumed with the resignation of Morris Lassell) expires in 2020.

Sharon has obtained the VHC window clings. An effort to get them from Sharon will be made at the Equine Summit in October.

Jim gave a brief report out on the ANR Cooperative Agreement status. VHC is trying to coordinate a meeting with Jessica Savage of ANR. Several dates in October have been put forward. ¹ Jim has also begun working on putting a FPR equine network together. An outline of the district equine network leader's responsibilities has been drafted. Amy Bedell has expressed interest in district 5 leadership. A person named Troy has had contact with Heidi (Susan B). Someone interested in the Rutland area has contacted Jim. And Jeannette has agreed help with Groton Forest.

Nicki introduced herself to the BOD. She has been volunteering at High Horses. She is the Upper Valley Humane Society Director. Very interested in helping with the organization and will try to attend the next meeting.

¹ Since this meeting, the date of the meeting has been set for October 16 at 11 am at the Agency's office in Montpelier. A preparatory phone meeting is scheduled for October 13 with interested VHC members at 7 pm. Contact Jim for the call in information.

At the time of the meeting only 4 people were signed up for the Equine Summit. The event has been boosted on FB. We have 11 people interested in summit on FB. We need to determine what to do for next year because VTC is closing equine program. Do we want to have an Equine Summit in the future? We should talk about this at the next meeting.

Sharon suggested we try a Skype link for the next phone conference. It is a free service. We need to have more information so that we can trial.

Gloria is working on the membership brochure and will try to have this ready for the New Year renewals.

Jeannette is representing VHC at the Farm Show meeting on October 10th.

It was decided to do the next meeting face to face on October 27, from 10 am – 1 pm. Jeannette offered to open Cabot Agri-Mark administration office for the meeting. We would do a potluck for the meeting.²

Motion was mad to adjourn the meeting; motion 2nd and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Cole BOD, VHC

² Unfortunately, Jeannette realized that she had double booked this date. The office space would not be available in this case. A determination needs to be made whether or not we will keep the October 27th date for the meeting.