

Vermont Horse council Meeting

September 8, 2018 Call to order at 10:23

Secretary report – Gloria moved, second – Heidi approved

Treasurer's report not available – Jeannette is back up for Quickbooks

Nominating committee - Bev

Sue Miller may run for President, Need VP if Sue Miller moves into president's slot, need secretary. Date for posting by November. Need officers that are willing to move forward into presidency. Fresh ideas are great, but we need continuity

Committee updates - Jessie is taking the lead on the summit this year. To be held at VTC, but we need to promote the event.

Membership – no update - rate of membership is steady. There is an increase in Business memberships. Need to push to remind people to re-new their membership.

Impact Survey - Fund raising is needed to continue the survey process, but not progressing well. Will resubmit a letter of request to Poulin Grain. Have \$1,700 in account towards \$15,000 needed. Dept of Ag denies having money to support this. Could write to business list that VHC has in hand – if it is a priority to them, they need to step up and fund the data management. Vermont Farm bureau has not contributed. People completing the study have expressed high level of support. Gloria will assist with letter. Some grain companies offer 'payback' for grain tags

Another person from GMHA had offered to survey Tunbridge Fair and is willing to volunteer.

ANR agreement status – received back from State office. Need local clubs connected as part of the process and to enable the support requirements. Maybe we should include ANR agreement with minutes. Focuses on trail maintenance – we need local trail groups to keep it up to date. Hold the insurance for

Trail mileage to be checked with state forest staff to ensure accuracy. Vermont highway safety person – ask Robin Simpson

Equine Summit – Heidi – Thursday Nov 29th at VTC Speaker on human resource management – hiring, managing, firing staff members. Amy Kelsey will present about impact study.

Chelle will be meeting with state forest staff next week – Sept 23 - she will try to determine mileage. VHC might be able to have a table at the event. Town Forest plans progressing well in Weathersfield – report due in September. Three town commission is still active – conference call next week to develop interdisciplinary meeting/use. Creating a three town recreation plan.

User conflict on trails – Chelle speaking at meeting with multi-use October at Lake Fairlee – Outdoor recreation conference

Scottsdale for American horse council coalition on horse council -equestrian trails conference. Maybe the 11th – Early bird registration is ending soon. Asked to be on international trails symposium – American Trails in Syracuse in early May.

Bylaws Review – Susan presented changes as completed to date. Crucial differences include reducing the mandatory meetings each year by including membership with Board meetings whenever possible. Add statement that allows use of electronic or web-based communications and voting. Clarifying and reducing wordage wherever possible.

Event planning for 2019 – insurance company wants the schedule in advance. Plans for 2 parades, 2 trail rides, 4 clinics, 4 membership meetings, 4 board meetings.

Gloria and Heidi – Managing older horse and riders.

De-Spooking, de-biking

Event planning – distance riding clinic possibly at GMHA

Question of horse council's role in sponsoring events – instead partner with other organizations that are doing events. Events are occurring all the time – VHC could support the current events and be a venue to reach out to their membership. Instead of competing with local clubs, shift to offering affiliate membership with the clubs. Become a supporting umbrella organization with the state. VHC can act as a leadership org

How to fund VHC to continue in this role. Creating affiliate memberships for other organizations. Business membership brochure – need to redo the membership brochure. Gloria is updating brochures. VHC could focus on clinics. Core work of VHC

Potential for affiliate membership for businesses. Events then could be co-sponsored. Reduced dues with joint membership, May want to offer free marketing 'rolled in' as a benefit of affiliation. Short term focus on people rather than profit. Marketing activity first, then income activity. Offer member price for GMHA to all VHC members. Affiliate Committee – Susan, Gloria, Chelle, Jeannette

Consider affiliate membership offered through GMHA – 500 members –

Sue Miller – has a conflict that won't allow attendance at American Horse Council, VHC – representation.

Adjourn at 11:26. Respectfully submitted, Susan Boyer, VHC secretary