



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL BOD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 20, 2022

In person Randolph, VT

Attendees – Jean Audet, Mikayla Pike, Monica Raymond, Kerrie Garvey (on phone), Heidi Krantz, Lisa LaFont, Robin Severy, Jeannette Cole. Missing Sue Miller (ill and unable to attend)

The meeting was called to order by president, Mikayla Pike at 9:33 am.

Mikayla outlined her thoughts as the incoming president. She is very excited to be assuming this leadership role. She outlined her thoughts about 2022 goals for the board

1. Increase membership with specific attention to youth
2. Participate in legislative events
3. Offer educational events
4. Develop a more robust trail program

The Board had discussion around each of these topics.

1. Increase membership – What are the incentives to join VHC (trails, eventers, youth, scholarship, social media, ride and drive, educational events)?
2. Participate in legislative events
 - a. Mikayla to do a meet and greet with neighbor who is a Vermont Legislator
 - b. Legislative event is on hold until Covid restrictions lifted
 - c. Farm Bureau will include anything the Horse Council would like to supply into their newsletter
 - d. Farm Bureau has put equine and equine businesses as a legislative priority
 - i. Some horse properties in tax exempt status
 - ii. Definition of “agriculture status” because equines currently do not fall into this definition unless a breeding operation. Discussion of agritourism as tax exempt?
 - e. VHC needs to get alignment on what the priorities are for us before we go to any legislator
3. Educational Events – decided to have 4 events. April (Summit); June (RAMS & Morgan Horse Farm visits tentative); August (TBD); October (TBD)
4. Road Safety – work on updating Public Service Announcement (PSA) and investigate equine incorporation into drivers’ education curriculum.
5. Discussion regarding what a more robust trail program entails
 - a. Cooperative agreement
 - b. Bike safety
 - c. Grants
 - d. Access to trails
 - e. District establishment with associated stewardship leaders

Membership Report – Robin Severy

30 lifetime members; 30 members have renewed; 5 business members as of this meeting date. Robin handed out an interest list to each of us present. We divided up the list, Jeannette = Events; Heidi = Legislation; Monica = trails; Safety = Lisa/Leigh; Youth = Mikayla; Rides = move to trails and will fall under Monica,

however we are not doing sponsored rides except for possibly as a fund raiser event; Bev McMullin = Board Members.

Motion was made to offer free membership for 2022 to Jeanine Welch (chain saw certified person) and to Kat McKean (she has granted permission to use her photographs). Passed unanimously.

Administrative – Monica

Monica has offered to begin cleaning up of Google drive and will make a recommendation to the board on how to organize the files. There was a good bit of discussion about getting email accounts associated with different categories so that when responses went back to people, they would be more officially associated with VHC (ex VHC info or VHC trails or VHC legislation).

We also discussed putting horse related legislation and boarding facilities on the web page. Hay directory keeps coming up. Heidi volunteered to establish this directory and post it on the VHC web page. This has been accomplished as of March 2022.

We decided that we would send written updates to each other by March 20th and that our BOD meetings would happen every other month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Meeting via zoom will occur on: April 12, June 14, Aug 9, Oct 11, Dec 13.

Youth – Mikayla

Anna Strong will assist Mikayla with a youth appropriate newsletter. Target is to have two for the year. Mikayla will develop a budget for this endeavor and bring it to the next board meeting for discussion. A list of ideas generated by youth was reviewed by Heidi. They included: trips to barns; information about horse centered careers; costs of owning a horse; open house weekend at local barns; horse art and treats; interviewing people in horse careers; daily care for horses.

Trails – Monica

Vision is to divide Vermont in subsections and have stewards for each section. Call it the Vermont Horse Council Trail Connection. This would include:

1. List of people interested in trails
2. Work done by local people for things they have passion about
3. Provide resources
4. Provide education about trails
5. Map the trails within each section
6. Establish a trails stewardship program – adopt a trail; education of stewards; introduction to appropriate state official
7. Work plan established for each district in compliance with ANR Cooperative agreement.

Monica handed out a proposal on how to partner with Horse Trail Chicks to get this accomplished. It is posted on the VHC webpage. The ERSA grant that was applied for Willoughby parking was denied. Believe the grants accepted were for universally accessible projects; not just horse related. Monica has connected with Nick Bennett (Vermont Mountain Bike Association) to do a bike/horse safety event.

Events - Jeannette

Board decided on one event per quarter to be hosted by VHC.

April – Equine Summit

June – RAMS/Morgan Horse Farm open house

August/Sept – Groton or Willoughby Concierge scholarship fund raising event

Oct – TBD

Road Safety - Lisa

Lisa gave an update on the status of the PSA work. She handed out a proposal to the BOD for consideration which coordinated the launch of the PSA this spring (May) with written/verbal advertisement - Rumble Strip, Vermont Edition, Common Ground, Across the Fence, etc. She will bring budget needs to the next BOD meeting. Her committee is also holding a Vermont Highway Safety poster contest. Other ideas of the committee are to declare a trail safety week, a share the trails awareness week.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM

Jeannette Cole, Secretary/Treasurer, Vermont Horse Council

| ACTION ITEM | WHO RESPONSIBLE | DATE STARTED | DATE COMPLETE D | STATUS |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| VHC board alignment on legislative priorities | Mikayla/Heidi | 2/22/2022 | | 4/6/2022 Equine Industry Summit |
| Check on availability of Melissa Ellis for a clinic | Heidi | 2/22/2022 | | |
| PSA and drivers' ed curriculum status | Lisa | 1/2022 | | |
| Reordering of Cling stickers for membership | Jean | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Send letter to business members to encourage renewal | Robin | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Notify Jeanine and Kat about free membership for 2022 | Robin | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Schedule training for the board on how to properly use | Kerrie | 2/22/2022 | | |

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| the Google drive | | | | |
| Organize the shared drive | Monica | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Determine email accounts associated with VHC web page (membership, Legislation, Information, Trails) | Heidi | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Organizing and scanning appropriate hard copy documents from VHC files in Jeannette's tack room | Jeannette | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Youth newsletter budget | Mikayla | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Bike/Horse safety event | Monica | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Melissa Ellis Fund Raising Clinic | Heidi | 2/22/2022 | | |
| Equine Large Animal Rescue inquiry that came into VHC email - are we doing anything? | Jean/Lisa | March 16, 2022 | | <p>It would be great to get some of our local fire departments trained in equine rescue. If anyone wants to hear more about it, you can listen to this Horses in the Morning podcast, where the founder was interviewed, at</p> <p>https://www.horseradionetwork.com/2022/01/25/horse-illustrated-the-halter-project-photographer-shelley-paulson-and-horse-clinics-for-jan-25-2022-from-straight-arrow-products/</p> |

MARCH 20TH WRITTEN UPDATES

MONICA:

- I provided information and photos to a reporter from the Times Argus who is writing an article on trail riding for their publication "Explore Vermont" which will be available to tourists and mailed to ~ 30,000 people in the Barre area and ~40,000 in the Rutland area in April.
- VHC now has its own Zoom Pro account that all Board members and Officers can use to schedule and host meetings. If you don't know how to access or use it, contact me (Monica)

- I am working with Heidi and Mikayla to reorganize the VHC Google Docs site to make it easier to use.
- I am working with Michelle Warren (our webmaster) to revamp the Trails pages and add new content, in particular more trail information.

Actions outside the meeting via E-mail

March 25, 2022:

Motion: to award Chrissy Rohan Vermont Horse Council Person of the Year for 2022 to be awarded at the Equine Industry Summit on April 6, 2022.

2nd by Sue Miller and Lisa Lafont (via email)

Voting "yes" via email: Sue Miller, Jean Audet, Mikayla Pike, Heidi Krantz, Jeannette Cole, Monica Raymond

No response from BOD members - Kerrie Garvey or Robin Severy

Nancy does not vote as a board member, and I do not know who Saxon McDonald is.

I have searched our by-laws regarding # of votes to pass a motion and except for reference to Robert's Rules of order I can't find anything. So according to Robert's rules of order regarding a motion - ***Motion: To introduce a new piece of business or propose a decision or action, a motion must be made by a group member ("I move that.....") A second motion must then also be made (raise your hand and say, "I second it.") After limited discussion the group then votes on the motion. A majority vote is required for the motion to pass (or quorum as specified in your bylaws.)***

WE HAVE 2/3 OF THE BOARD VOTING "YES" SO THE MOTION PASSED.

Jeannette Cole, Secretary

March 25, 2022:

Motion: to award Heidi Krantz Vermont Horse Council Person of the Year for 2021 to be awarded at the Equine Industry Summit on April 6, 2022. Approved by Mikayla, Jean, Robin, Sue, Lisa, Kerrie, Jeannette, Monica. This is being kept secret from Heidi, so she was not included in the email correspondence.

April 4, 2022

Motion: The VHC Safety committee would like to formally move forwards with the Agency of Ag (VAAF) offer to support the creation of a new Share the Road PSA, for no monetary cost to VHC. Monica, Jeannette, Lisa, Jean, Sue, Robin voted yes, No response from Kerrie or Mikayla

April 5, 2022

Motion to award Denny Emerson, Barb Peck, and Karen Clark free membership as a thank you for speaking at the VHC Equine Summit. Unanimously approved everyone responded.