



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL

"Promoting a thriving equine community in
Vermont"

www.vthorsecouncil.org

April 9th, 2024 BOD Meeting 7-8:30pm via ZOOM

Meeting started @7pm. In attendance:

Jeannette Cole (Pres.), Chel Brewster (VP), Mikayla Pick (Treas.), Monica Raymond (BOD), Kerrie Garvey (BOD), Robin Severy (Membership/BOD), Jennifer Kennett (BOD), Lisa Lafont (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Andrea Hath-Miglorie (member)

Guest Speaker: Brent Allen from **Allen Financial Insurance Group, which sells insurance policies from Am Risk Insurance Group (AMRISKUSA.COM)**

The intent of the meeting was to have Brent speak to the BOD regarding what our Insurance policy is, what it covers, and what additional services we could put in place. We allotted 45 minutes for Brent to speak, with time for questions and then a short Board Meeting to follow. However, the informative meeting went the full 90 minutes, so we were unable to do much regarding VHC specific matters.

Inclusions discussed included how many Members only events vs Public events we can have, type of Liability coverage, protections for unintentional occurrences, and built in litigations.

Some points (note: these are from Monica's notes so are subject to her understanding of what Brent said):

- **Our general liability coverage (\$1 million) covers officers, directors, volunteers, and staff for events that involve bodily injury and property damage. The insurances includes defending us in court and damages if required.**
- **We have a flat rate for up to 100 members. For each additional member there is a premium increase. *Our insurance application for 2023-2024 premium included 150 members.***
- **We can have as many member-only events per year as we want without any additional premium.**
- **We can have up to a certain number of public events per year (Brent said 5 but Jeannette said it's 7) without extra premium. A public event is one that the general public is invited to, and non-members attend. A volunteer trail maintenance day is not considered a public event, and the people are actually volunteering for the landowner (e.g. FPR), not us.**

- It was unclear if property owners who allow us to ride on their land (e.g. for an event or as members) are covered. We can add them to our policy as additional insured but this will raise our premium. *The implied understanding is that our insurance covers members - not land owners. When we do an additional insured, that means our insurance for members is the first company to be “tapped” should there be an incident (not the insurance of the landowner).*
- If we have chapters they should not incorporate, or else they will need a separate policy. If they are part of VHC then they are automatically covered by our insurance.

Exclusions discussed included private landowners, collaborative public events, Steeplechase, **rodeo rough stock events (e.g. bull-riding), racing**, non-equestrian activities, rides for hire events, **product liability**, and alcohol at ANY event.

Brent mentioned several policy changes and offerings that VHC could benefit from. Due to lack of time, it was determined that the BOD needs to meet for a separate discussion, prepare questions, and approach AM RISK to re-evaluate our current/future policies to better meet our needs as a Non-Profit with Directors&Officers insurance, and consideration for future Chapters.

Jeannette said that we have Officers and Directors insurance through another company. This insurance covers us if we are sued for “errors and omissions” which are things other than bodily injury/property damage such as mismanaging the organization or money.

In the 10 minutes of overage, we were able to get a Treasury Report. Currently, \$17,259.38 in Checking, and \$8300.48 in Savings. Accepted.

Minutes from the March 12th BOD meeting were accepted.

Jeanette will be absent from the May 14th meeting, so it will be hosted by Chel Brewster (VP). BOD will be asked to submit activities and Meeting Agenda items no later than 5-10-24 in preparation. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.