



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL

"Promoting a thriving equine community in
Vermont"

www.vthorsecouncil.org

May 14, 2024 BOD Meeting 7-8:30 pm via ZOOM

Meeting started @7:05 pm.

Attendees: Robin Severy (BOD), Monica Raymond (BOD), Chel Brewster (VP), Mikayla Pick (Treasurer), Kerrie Garvey (BOD), Lisa Lafont (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Carla Quandel (member), Jennifer Kennett (BOD), Kelli McArdle (BOD)

Absent: Jeannette Cole (President)

Release forms for event participants (Chel): we will no longer have people sign a release form when joining VHC. Instead, when they join they will be notified that they will have to sign a release when attending an event, and we will have them sign each time they attend an event. It will be required whenever they are in the saddle or on a property with horses, and possibly other events.

Letter to Cambridge Selectboard about the Grist Mill Covered Bridge (Monica): Monica asked the Board to sign a letter she wrote asking the Town to restrict horse trailers from the section of Canyon Rd. that involves crossing this historic bridge. The bridge is very narrow and the approach is a 90 degree turn. Crossing it with a trailer is potentially dangerous. The Board approved the motion to sign the letter. It will also be posted on Facebook so that others can sign onto it.

Membership brochures and business cards (Chel on behalf of Jeannette): should we revise our membership brochure with the new tag line and print them? Mikayla and Heidi worked on the brochure in 2022 in Canva so it should be fairly up to date otherwise; Mikayla will work on adding the tag line. Do we want to have business cards? Some people feel they would be useful. Monica will make a template; Chel can print them and mail them to board members who want them.

Newsletter (Chel): next newsletter due to go out at the end of June. The previous one was sent to over 400 people, only 4 unsubscribed, and 60% shared it. Feedback from members - they want more content. Everyone should try to write something for it. Think about something like "from the desk of". Chel is working on photos. We could have recipes, tips. Lisa will write up a section on Willoughby. She also wants to make a map with pins showing where the people who went to the Summit are from; Kerrie will help her.. Chel needs the submissions by June 16. The

newsletter was built in Canva, which works with Mailchimp but imports the newsletter as a picture which is not good.. People had trouble opening it and it looked really small. We could make it into a pdf and send it as a link, but not mobile friendly. Paul is helping figure this out.

VHC bank account (Mikayla): switching it over from the old owner (who is not on the board anymore) to Mikayla has been challenging. This is in process.. Lots of paperwork. Long term we might want to look into a statewide bank or credit union rather than a local bank.

Treasurer's report:

VHC Checking	⋮
Available Balance	\$18,148.18
Current Balance	\$18,148.18
VHC Savings	⋮
Available Balance	\$8,302.18
Current Balance	\$8,302.18

Killington insurance (Monica): for the VHC presentation at the Outdoor Rec day in Killington in September we will be bringing a horse. Killington Resort wants an insurance document from us. Monica will forward the info from Killington to Mikayla to see if we just need a certificate or if we have to buy additional insurance.

Trail markers (Chel on Jeannette's behalf): Jeannette is asking for Board approval for up to \$300 to buy trail arrows and up to \$300 for VHC decals for the arrows. Both expenses were approved.

April 9, 2024 BoD meeting minutes approved.

April treasurer's report: As of 4/9/24 checking has \$17,259, savings has \$8,300. Report approved.

Swag store (Kerrie): the store is ready online. The only thing needed to get it over the finish line is to set up direct deposit of earnings to our bank account, which Mikayla will set up once she has access to it. If anyone wants to be an admin on the store Kerrie can add you. It is print on demand. When someone places an order the company sends it to the person and we get the money transferred to our bank account. We need to figure out how to launch it. The board decided to start out sharing it with members only so they can provide us feedback. Kerrie will send a link to the store to everyone after the meeting; please provide feedback.

Membership list (Robin): It appears that someone went into the membership list and did some sorting, causing much of Robin's recent work to be messed up. Paul is supposed to restrict who can edit the list but has not yet. If you need to look at the list, please do not do any editing or sorting at this time.

Timid riders workshop (Monica): Monica was approached by someone asking us to hold a clinic for older riders and riders who have had injuries. She has a clinician and the person who requested it has a place to hold it, but the details still need to be worked out.

Grants that require an organization to pay expenses and then submit invoices for reimbursement (Monica): these types of grants can be challenging because we don't have enough money to pay contractors etc. up front. Monica learned that a lot of organizations are able to get a line of credit from a bank that allows them to pay for services up front. It's good for us to know this is an option.

Trailer backing clinic (Monica): Monica is still waiting to hear from the sponsor re: a date.

Willoughby State Forest trails (Lisa): Lisa did an interview and filming with WCAX about the proposal to allow horses on more trails in Willoughby.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

There will a Trails committee meeting on Tuesday May 21, 2024

Next board meeting will be Tuesday June 11, 2024