

2024 VHC ANNUAL GOALS

Our mission is to foster an inclusive, equitable and prosperous equine community in Vermont. We strive to promote and protect the interests and well-being of all equine enthusiasts while recognizing the importance of our natural environment, the rights of public and private property stewards, state laws and regulations, recreation and local businesses.

GOAL

COMMUNICATION

Maintain VHC communication/engagement through updates to VHC website, periodic emails, Member only and general facebook postings

Produce quarterly VHC newsletter (March, June, Sept, Dec).

Revamp Ride & Drive program to solicit excitement, fun and community for VHC members.

TRAILS - State Lands (WSF, Groton, Coolidge, Little River, Victory, Island Pond); Brewster Uplands, GMNF, Mobbs Farm/Jericho Research Forest, Private Landowners (Forest Farmers, Morrisville, Groton)

Formalize equestrian trails in Willoughby State Forest by year end 2024 (public comment meeting, trail signage, parking design)

Continue discussion and development of Coolidge State Park equestrian camping and associated trail mapping.

Groton Forest initiatives – 1) VHC trail marking and updating of maps, 2) investigate adjoining landowner trail loops

Silver Lake – 1) maintenance of equestrian camping site, (2) investigation of addition trails at Silver Lake/Mooselamoo/Green Mountain Forest

Complete NEK Trail Maintenance

Assure equine voice is present within Vermont Greenways organization.

Maintain Members Benefit private property trail access program.

Obtain funding for trail improvement project(s) - Victory, Mobbs Farm/Jericho Research Forest, WSF

Produce a "white paper" on equine trail impact

EDUCATION

Conduct an equine educational event per quarter.

Winter – Annual meeting – Safari Ride

Spring – Nervous System Regulation, Hay Analysis, Western Saddlesit

Summer – Rotational Grazing, Trailer Backing

Fall – Greenways Symposium @Killington, Trails App and Ride (Hack, Map & App 2.0)

Conduct Equine Industry Summit - to continue connection with Business community

Begin Planning VHC 50th Anniversary Celebration for 2025

LEGISLATIVE

Equine businesses become recognized as agricultural status (VT Law School Definition of Agriculture, Farm Bureau Relationship, Legislative Bill introduction)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Solicit and train new board members and officers to assure long term viability of VHC

Assure VHC financial viability through fundraising, donations and membership growth

Continue active involvement in the American Horse Council and Coalition of State Horse Councils

Assure BOD/membership meetings are held every month throughout the year with minutes reported on the VHC webpage.

Assure proper 501-3C filings are completed on time.

Assure proper liability and D&O insurance is obtained in a timely fashion.

Assure financial documents meet all state and federal requirements.