

1/25/2025

Attendance

Board: Jeannette Cole, Mikayla Pick, Monica Raymond, Kerrie Garvey, Robin Severy, Linsey Williams, Lisa Lafont

Members: Heidi Krantz, Sarah Isham, Carmel Stone, Jean Audet, Emma O'Neill, Cody Vernet, Peter Howe, Mackenzie Chauncey, Kim Demars, Abby Killey

Jeannette opening meeting at 10:05

Blue Seal in attendance

Secretary Report to approve

- Met 1/27
- Called to order Mikayla Pick
- All board present
- 2023 YIR powerpoint
- Ended with \$18,000 ish in bank
- Membership flat
- Treasurer report approved
- Sec report dist. And posted, accepted unanimously
- Accepted officers as presented
- Ended day at 2:15

Motion- Heidi Krantz- accept minutes as read Seconded by Carmel, all in favor

Did brief introduction of attendees

Treasurer Report- Mikayla

Checking: \$16,674.61

Savings: \$8316.12

Showed the changes in 2023-2024

Income is up!

Goals and Scorecard

Communication, Trails, Education, Legislation, Administration

1- Mailchimp and quarterly newsletters

2- Trails- Monica and Lisa

- Lisa doing alot with NEKET
- Willoughby- working on expanding access, working with FPR, got public meeting and working on approving funding for trails and parking lot and creating better access for trailers in current areas
- Lunenburg Polar Bears and Victory- creating presentation, get parking for trailers, need to sort out improvements and signs
- Donation and matching funds to help with gravel and machinery
- Signage in Groton

- Cooperative agreement with FPR- VHC is the organization that works with Forest Parks and Rec for the state. VHC maintains the trails
- Coolidge- Jean works on access to trails, working on campground. Lots of potential for trails, would be a large area to ride
- Green Mountain Forest- campground, has to be ridden to and trails are good. Working on trail for horses to get from campground to major trails. There is grant to do this
- Private land owner trail access for members only

3- Education- programs for 2024

- Hay analysis webinar
- Trailer backing clinic
- Saddle fitting

4- Legislation

- Focus on horse businesses designated at agriculture
- Work with farm bureau
- Heidi the main person pushing this
- Worked with VT Law School, worked on definition and most don't include equine
- Working to redefine agriculture and get equine included
- Garnering support and interest now

5- Administrative

- Legal requirements to stay at 501C3
- Depth of board, filling vacancies

Accomplishments

- Newsletter, business refresh, Summit, Educational Events, Trails

Concerns- resources, only so many people volunteer

50th Anniversary!

2025 Goals

- May- Spring Fling with Rutland fairgrounds
 - Lots of events happening for all
- Many other events in the works

2025 Goals

- Communications- business and legislation
- Trails- driving access, creating some app things with trail significance (state parks, historic sites)
- Education- narration on trails
- Legislation- passive persistence
- Administration- recruitment

By- Law Changes

- Compliance with VT State Laws for non-profit
- Reduce Flux and continuity for board, especially officers

- Clarify the voting procedures
- Making changes to be up to Vermont Standards
- Updated and approved January 25, 2025
- Heidi makes motion to approve, Lise second, approved unanimously

From [Vermont Horse Council ByLaws](#)

Voting- [Warning Letter](#)

- 2025 Ballot

Jean makes motion to accept ballot as shown, Jeannette second, all approved

Membership Input (Robin)

- Work in progress to switch to rolling membership
- Robin and Michelle working hard on this
- Renewals should be seamless, notice goes out before charging card
- Website making things easier
- Need to bump up riding club membership, individual and group

September will start planning for 2026 summit (Heidi)

- Need more people

Dream Goal for VHC

- Monica
 - Regional conference on climate change and equine industry
 - How to work on getting ahead of changes
 - Work with UVM

Pete asked about collaborating with other organizations

- Discussion on all the organizations we currently work with
 - Trails and Greenways, farm bureau
 - Discussion started about collaborating with other state organizations
 - Need input from horse people to get this working better

Monica move to adjourn, all agree

Meeting close at 12:04