



Vermont Horse Council Board of Directors and Members Meeting
June 10, 2025
7:00pm via Zoom

Attending: Michelle Brewster (VP), Emma O'Neill (S), Mikayla Pick (T), Monica Raymond (BOD), Linsey Williams (BOD), Robin Severy (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Lisa Lafont (BOD), Kerrie Garvey (BOD), Heidi Krantz (M)

Absent: Jeannette Cole (P), Carla Quandel (BOD)

Agenda:

7:01pm - Call to Order - Michelle

7:02pm - Secretary Report - Emma

- Meeting minutes from May 13, 2025, were approved.

7:03pm - Treasurer Report - Mikayla

- Checking account balance is \$20,485.38 and savings account balance is \$8,324.73, financials accepted as presented.
- Mikayla will speak with Nancy about the Q2 financials and will have specific account breakdowns for the July meeting.
- Any potential events for next year should be given to Mikayla ASAP (even just as placeholders for now), so she can submit them for the insurance to be paid in July.
- Invoice for Lunenburg trail parking sign will be sent directly to Mikayla (expense was approved at the previous meeting).

Old Business

7:07pm - Silver Lake - Laurie

- Laurie received quotes from Chuck Steady at Steady Property Maintenance for \$10,935.00 and Robbie Devoid at Potential View Property Management for \$14,464.76.
- Both would require 25% of balance to be paid before work starts, and remaining balance to be paid upon completion of work, which should only take 3-4 days.
- Current VHC funds would be used to pay balance in full, and then the grant for \$6,739 would be dispersed as a reimbursement to VHC after completion of work. Additional expense of \$4,100+ was discussed and approved at a previous meeting; further fundraising efforts may be of interest.

- Jean confirmed with Holly at GMNF that the grant would not be revoked due to recent funding changes, but does need to be used before 2026.
- Northern Forest Center will be awarding a few more grants this year, and the Silver Lake project may be eligible, deadline for RFP is July 18th.
- GMNF is requiring all work to be completed before hunting season begins, but based on contractor availability and NFC grant application, VHC would like to aim for a start date between late July and early September.
- Motion approved to choose Steady Property Maintenance and the submitted quote with 25% due prior to work, and remaining balance due upon completion, with work to begin no sooner than early July and no later than early September.
- Laurie will reach out to Chuck to discuss start date, preferred method of payment, and other specifics of the project.

New Business

7:29pm - Interest in Chapters, Affiliations, or Partnerships with Local Riding Groups - Michelle + Heidi

- Recent discussions about VHC's interest in forming chapters, affiliations, or partnerships with local riding groups or breed organizations throughout the state.
- Insurance coverage and manpower have been main points of concern about doing this type of expansion in the past.
- Smaller clubs could benefit from VHC insurance coverage, name recognition, and event organization, and main VHC benefit would be potential membership growth and interest (and potential chapter fees/dues).
- Consider having local group members become VHC members to host member-only events as a possible alternative.
- VHC may not be a large enough organization to take on smaller clubs unless they have demonstrated a strong work ethic and interest in making improvements at their local level.
- Instead of chapters, consider having local groups join VHC as business members, and the benefits or implications that might include.
- Discussion about having local groups send members or committees to VHC BoD meetings as representatives versus having additional VHC board members.

7:49pm - BoD Folder in Shared Drive - Monica

- Monica will move the "Board of Directors" folder from under "Administrative" folder up one level in the shared drive.

7:52pm - S.123 Update - Monica

- Monica gave a description of legal trails/class 4 roads and the lawsuit taking place in Tunbridge regarding legal trails that run through privately held land.
- Vermont Trails and Greenways Council has been working with legislators to include language in S.123, a transportation bill, about towns retaining the right, but not the responsibility, to maintain legal trails on private lands.
- S.123 has passed through the Senate and House and is on the way to the Governor. If signed into law, the effective date would be in 2026, to see how the pending lawsuit progresses.

- VHC has a responsibility (as part of our mission) to keep our members and the equestrian community informed of news that will influence equine activities and opportunities within the state.
- Michelle will edit the post Monica wrote to include formal language and links (see below) to be a press release that will be posted on VHC website and social media, with an emphasis on the impact to the equine community.
- Reminder that we will never make everyone happy, but we have a responsibility to inform and educate others to let others make their own conclusions and decisions.

8:12pm - Facebook + Website Post Approval - Monica

- Discussion about whether or not and what types of posts should be vetted before posting to public/private Facebook pages and VHC website.
- Michelle will check potential Facebook posts and make any necessary changes before posting.

8:17pm - Membership Documents Tour - Robin

- Unable to share screen, will move to parking lot for next month's meeting.

8:18pm - Trail Maintenance Clarification - Lisa

- In regard to the Silver Lake project, who would be responsible for maintaining the area in the event of washouts or other unforeseen circumstances in the next 5-10 years?
- Laurie will confirm with GMNF for grant purposes, but thought that GMNF would assess the situation and then work with us to develop a plan of action.
- Laurie will work with Jean and add all documents pertaining to the grant to the shared drive.

8:22pm - Other - Lisa

- Lisa and Heidi will be attending the Lunenburg Old Town Day and parade on August 2nd, to represent VHC with similar information and set-up to the Spring Fling.
- Lisa gave update on the current state of several trails at Victory State Forest and Groton State Forest.

8:31pm - Adjournment

Links:

- [Legal Trails - Vermont Trails and Greenways](#)

Parking Lot:

- Membership Documents Tour - Robin

Proposed Minute Corrections:

Name	Date/Time	Change	Vote

Monica	6/17/25, 18:12	Please add page numbers	Yes
Monica	6/17/25 18:12	On page 2, the first bullet, I don't recall saying the deadline for the RFP is July 11. Did I? If I did, I probably meant it was a rough guess. Please add the word "approximately."	Yes - include correct date of July 18th