



Vermont Horse Council Board of Directors and Members Meeting
July 8, 2025
7:00pm via Zoom

Attending: Jeannette Cole (P), Michelle Brewster (VP), Emma O'Neill (S), Mikayla Pick (T), Monica Raymond (BOD), Linsey Williams (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Lisa Lafont (BOD), Kerrie Garvey (BOD)

Absent: Carla Quandel (BOD), Robin Severy (BOD)

Agenda:

7:03pm - Call to Order - Jeannette

7:04pm - Secretary Report - Jeannette (Emma absent for first half of meeting)

- Meeting minutes from June 10, 2025, were approved with the following corrections:
 - Add page numbers to the document
 - Update Northern Forest Center RFP deadline to July 18th
 - Include checking account balance of \$20,485.38 and savings account balance of \$8,324.73

7:06pm - Treasurer Report - Mikayla

- As of meeting, checking account balance is \$20,656.04 and savings account balance is \$8,326.44.
- Mikayla will check in with Nancy about quarterly reports, including Q2 financials.
- Mikayla received the invoice from Chuck Steady for the 25% deposit on the Silver Lake project.
 - Will be paid from the Trails Fund/checking account, and then reimbursed once the grant is awarded, after the project is completed.
- Mikayla sent a check to Andrea at the Rutland State Fairgrounds, but will confirm that she has received it.
- Still waiting on an estimate for the insurance for the upcoming year, Mikayla will follow up.
- Financials accepted as presented.

Old Business

7:10pm - Booths - Jeannette

- Orleans Equine Expo - August 2nd - 3rd
 - Heidi will be covering (Lisa may help on the 3rd).
 - Mikayla will check on the \$50 booth deposit.
 - Heidi and Jeannette will work on promotional materials with QR codes and use brochures from Spring Fling.

- Lunenburg Old Home Days - August 2nd
 - Lisa will be covering to show support for the Lunenburg Polar Bears and to talk about the work done at Victory.

7:13pm - Paul - Next Steps - Jeannette

- Carla and Jeannette met with Paul, and he will continue his normal work in a remote capacity, with monthly check-in meetings.
- Jeannette will coordinate with Michelle about posting survey on the website homepage and sending it out to members to collect data to improve the website strategy.
- Lisa wants to know if the “calendar of events” on the homepage can be formatted horizontally versus vertically, Jeannette will ask Paul.

7:16pm - Green Mountain National Forest Update - Laurie

- Chuck will be starting the work on July 15th, and the entire project should be completed in 3-4 days.
- David Nolson from GMNF marked the worksite/trails and will meet directly with Chuck to coordinate/confirm what needs to be done.
- Laurie will take pictures of the work being done and send those to Jeannette and Michelle to post on the website and Facebook pages.
- Laurie can work on signage and mapping on AllTrails after the project has been completed.
- May need to get final approval from GMNF after completion, before hosting an unveiling for members. Tentatively, planning an event for board members prior to the official unveiling.
- Laurie will work on planning a “thank you” for VAST and the private landowner for allowing access to the trails.

7:22pm - Willoughby Soft Opening - Lisa

- The trails are open, but there is still some brush work to be done. Based on Luke’s schedule and Lisa’s availability, the grand opening needs to be pushed back to August.
- Lisa recommends parking in the overflow parking lot.
- New trail signage has not been put up yet, so anyone using trails now should use a map. Monica will send Lisa 30 trail arrows, and Lisa will coordinate with Jeannette about a date to work on signage.

7:26pm - Victory Update - Lisa

- The trail entrance coming from Tug Mountain is after the state gate, which is currently closed for bridge repairs.
- Lisa will touch base with Luke about confirming when the true loop will be open/accessible, as it is just an up and back trail in the current state, on the east side of River Road.
- Lisa and Jeannette will look at the map later to update the website and post an alert on the trails webpage.
- Lisa, Jeannette, and Monica will coordinate a day to ride the trail and map it on AllTrails.

New Business

7:35pm - Northern Forest Center Grant - Monica + Kerrie

- The 2023 grant application to repair two sections of the trail connecting Mobbs Farm to the UVM Research Forest wasn't approved.
- Monica and Kerrie met with Jess (UVM forest manager) and agreed that it is still a worthwhile project to take on.
- Kerrie reached out to the previous contractor to get updated quotes for the project (roughly around \$19,000).
- Monica and Kerrie have drafted a new application and are waiting for approval from Jess to submit it.
- Kerrie will submit the application before the deadline on July 18th. Any proposed work would need to be completed by May 31, 2026.
- NFC is looking to fund three multi-use projects focused on erosion control with a budget of \$20,000 to \$25,000 each.
- It would be a reimbursement grant, so VHC would need to set up a line of credit to pay for upfront costs before being reimbursed. Monica believes that the grant itself would be adequate collateral for this line of credit.

7:40pm - Kingdom Heritage Corridor Agreement - Jeannette

- Luke reminded Jeannette that the agreement will be expiring soon and needs to be updated if VHC wants to continue being a partner in that project.
- Previous agreement is located in the shared drive under the "July BoD meeting" folder, but will need to be updated to reflect changes in ownership, insurance, etc.
- Future discussion about better maintaining the campsites and creating maps may be warranted, but otherwise, VHC agrees that we should sign the new agreement.

7:45pm - Newsletter - Michelle

- Michelle set up a generous deadline to allow everyone time to get their submissions to her for the Q2 newsletter, but she only received a few pieces of content.
- As individual board members, do we have too much on our plates to create content for Michelle every quarter? Consider switching to a biannual or annual newsletter.
- Content could include things like recipes, jokes, photos, committee updates, educational write-ups, and individual or business member features.
- Michelle has been getting feedback from members that they do enjoy the newsletters and the included content.
- VHC agrees that we should continue quarterly newsletters, as they are one of our member benefits. Each board member needs to be committed to providing Michelle with new content.
- Send Michelle content throughout the quarter, not right before the deadline, to allow her to follow up and make any necessary changes.
- Monica will create a "2025 newsletter" folder in the shared drive under the "marketing and communications" folder, where newsletter submissions can be added in addition to sending them to Michelle.
- Archived newsletters are on the website under the members-only section.

8:02pm - Transference of Membership - Michelle

- Robin sent a life-membership card to Amy Biddell (former board member), but heard back from her husband that she passed away over two years ago.
- Her husband is still very involved with their horses, and wanted to know if Amy's membership could be transferred to him as an inheritance.
- VHC agrees that in this situation, that is the appropriate action to take, and Michelle will coordinate with Robin to follow up.

8:06pm - Marble Equestrians Drill Team - Jeannette

- Andrea Hathaway (Centerline Farm) is going to be starting a drill team, and the initial meeting to gauge interest is on July 10th.
- She plans to travel to different venues to perform, and she is inquiring about insurance through VHC.
- All participants would have to be VHC members, and the drill team would have to be a representative of VHC, meaning that any events would have to be classified as VHC events.
- Jeannette will look into insurance ramifications with Mikayla and follow up with Andrea at the initial meeting.

8:10pm - Welcoming New Members - Jeannette

- Per Michelle, Robin has been getting caught up on her new membership cards and thank you letters.
- Members-only Facebook page automatically generates a post welcoming new members after four new members have joined the group.
- Robin is ultimately the person in charge of all memberships, including business memberships, and sends all member correspondence. Carla is responsible for adding/removing business members from the website.
- Consider adding a section on the new member sign-up form that asks if new members are okay with being acknowledged in a newsletter or Facebook post.

8:15pm - Maple Hill Farm - Linsey

- Linsey has been speaking with the new owner of this campground in Lincoln about potentially offering equestrian camping services.
- These services would be advertised as VHC member-only benefits, like the other equestrian campsites we already work with.
- Linsey is planning to hike the surrounding trails to see if they could be horse accessible.

8:22pm - Adjournment

Links:

Parking Lot:

- Decision to send someone to the trail symposium hosted in Killington in October after a schedule of events has been released.

Proposed Minute Corrections:

Name	Date/Time	Change	Vote
Carla (via email) Emma posted in the meeting minutes.	Jul 18, 2025 1:43pm	<p>Change “Robin is ultimately the person in charge of all memberships, including business memberships, but Carla sends out her own business member welcome letters.”</p> <p>From Carla: I do not send out business member welcome letters. When Robin adds new business members to the spreadsheet, the only task I do is add them to the website. I also review who has expired and will remove them from the bus. directory if they do not renew. Last we spoke, Robin would continue to send correspondence to all members.</p> <p>Change to: “Robin is ultimately the person in charge of all memberships, including business memberships, and sends all member correspondence. Carla is responsible for adding/removing business members from the website.”</p>	Approved.