



Vermont Horse Council Board of Directors and Members Meeting  
August 12, 2025  
7:00pm via Zoom

**Attending:** Jeannette Cole (P), Michelle Brewster (VP), Emma O'Neill (S), Mikayla Pick (T), Monica Raymond (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Kerrie Garvey (BOD), Robin Severy (BOD)

**Absent:** Linsey Williams (BOD), Lisa Lafont (BOD), Carla Quandel (BOD) (Resigned before meeting)

**Agenda:**

**7:00pm - Call to Order** - Jeannette

**7:01pm - Secretary Report** - Emma

- Meeting minutes from July 8, 2025, were approved with the following corrections:
  - 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.

**7:03pm - Treasurer Report** - Mikayla

- Current balances as of the meeting:
  - Checking account: \$18,013.68
  - Savings account: \$8,328.21
- Final payment of \$8,201.25 was sent to Chuck Steady last week after completion of GMNF work, but has not posted yet. With the original 25% deposit of \$2,700, the total cost of the project is \$10,935.
- The pending grant reimbursement will be about \$6,721, meaning about \$4,200 will be coming directly out of the VHC account (trail vs. general).
- Directors and officers liability insurance renewal through Swenson will be due on September 9th for \$667.
- Financials accepted as presented.

**Old Business**

**7:11pm - NFS Grant Approval** - Monica + Kerrie

- The Jericho trail project received conditional approval through the Northern Forest Center.
  - Connects UVM research forest to Mobbs Farm in Jericho (owned by the town)
  - Will address muddy conditions and water gully issues.
  - All work needs to be completed before May 30, 2026.

- The grant will be for \$18,750, with the funding contingent on federal NCRS approval (expected within a few weeks).
  - It would be a reimbursement grant structure again, which would require an upfront payment to the contractor.
  - VHC will need to research bridge loan options to make this possible.
- Monica to contact Northfield Savings Bank (hold VHC's current accounts) about bridge loan options.
- Heidi will also look into a few additional lenders.
- Laurie will work with Jean to get USDA GMNF reimbursement pushed through ASAP to improve VHC's cash position.

**7:23pm - Business Memberships - Jeannette**

- Michelle will be taking over business memberships and working with Robin, following Carla's departure.
- Renewed importance on building business memberships back up to support VHC's financial stability.
- Robin is up to date on new memberships from NEK and Lunenburg events.

**7:25pm - Spring Fling Payment Status - Mikayla**

- Mikayla has sent the required payment to Andrea for the Spring Fling event.

**7:26pm - GMNF BoD Trail Ride Date - Laurie**

- August 30th or 31st - Check email for more details.

**7:26pm - Willoughby Dedication Date - Jeannette**

- Willoughby grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony to be held on September 10th.
- Lisa is working with Luke to coordinate this event, which will be a smaller event with the BoD.
- Monica would like to see more publicity around this project and ask the public to participate in the opening event (without horses).
- More emphasis should be placed on getting people to ride the trails and donating towards trail projects and maintenance.
- Kerrie has started the Willoughby map, but is waiting on more information from Lisa and Luke about numbering the trails. Kerrie will send the draft she has.
- Monica will talk to Lisa about getting a web page together for this project.

**7:31pm - NEK Expo Booth Payment Status - Jeannette**

- Mikayla has sent the required payment for the NEK Expo booth.

**7:32pm - Technology Meeting - Jeannette**

- Jeannette and Michelle will meet with Paul this weekend to discuss plug-ins for Facebook posts and the website survey responses (12 responses).

## New Business

### **7:34pm - Farm Show Representative - Jeannette**

- VHC is a board member of the Vermont Farm Show.
- Jeannette needs to step away from this role, but would like someone else to step up and fill it.
- If interested, the board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month via Zoom from 4pm-6pm.
- Tends to be focused more on industries that produce products like maple, bee-keeping, fiber producers, etc., but horses do have an interest (Morgan Horse Association has participated previously).

### **7:37pm - Q3 Newsletter - Michelle**

- Monica has added the updated Newsletter folders to the shared drive under the Marketing and Communications folder.
- Deadline for submissions is September 24th (one week before release).
- Michelle is hoping to speak with Paul about leaving Mailchimp and switching to Brevo to hopefully see better readership and engagement.
- Emma and Laurie have already added submissions to the newsletter folder.

### **7:41pm - Carla's Resignation - Jeannette**

- Carla has submitted her resignation to Jeannette, effective immediately, due to increased personal/work responsibilities.
- Carla filled Jennifer's vacant position, which means her term will run out at the end of this year.
- This will leave VHC with six remaining board members and four executive officers, meaning we will need to fill this open position to satisfy our bylaws.
- Jeannette will reach out to Pete Howe, who has shown previous interest in a BoD position.

### **7:45pm - Insurance - Mikayla**

- Hallmark Equine Insurance Agency emailed Mikayla to let her know Allen Financial Group (current insurer) ceased operations in March.
- VHC's policy is through American Equine Insurance Group, but was brokered to AFG. HEIA has taken over the existing AFG policies, meaning VHC still has active coverage until September 9th.
- Mikayla is working with HEIA and also getting quotes from Swenson and several local insurance agents.
- Mikayla will send an email to BoD members about what she is able to find out (renewal date before the next board meeting).
- Emphasis on flexibility with event dates and other riders on our policy (ANR, timber groups, etc.).

### **7:52pm - Other - BoD Retreat Dates - Mikayla + Jeannette**

- VHC BoD fall retreat will be held on Saturday, November 1st, from 10am-2pm.
- Kerrie will reach out to reserve the Monkton Town Hall from 9:30am-2:30pm.
- Think about possible agenda items and bring a dish to share.
- No regularly scheduled VHC meeting (November 11th).

**7:57pm - Adjournment**

**Links:**

**Parking Lot:**

**Proposed Minute Corrections:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Vote</b>