



Vermont Horse Council Board of Directors and Members Meeting
January 13, 2026
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), Linsey Williams (BOD)

Absent: Lisa Lafont (BOD)

Agenda:

7:03pm - Call to Order - Jeannette

7:06pm - Secretary Report - Emma

- Meeting minutes from December 9, 2025, were approved without corrections.

7:07pm - Treasurer Report - Mikayla

- Current balances as of the meeting:
 - Checking account: \$19,615.51
 - Savings account: \$6,119.81
- Verda's donation of \$150 was received today (to be used at VHC's discretion), Mikayla will let Nancy know for proper accounting
 - This donation also counts as GMHA's membership (per Jeannette)
- Continued discussion about moving funds to a money market or high-yield savings account
 - Monica recommended waiting for Ryne to join the board to give any input before proceeding, given his accounting background.
- Financials accepted as presented.

Old Business

7:13pm - Annual Meeting Presentation Preparations - Jeannette

- Jeannette has added the annual meeting slides in draft format to the shared drive for BoD members to look over and add to accordingly
- The proposed agenda for the annual meeting will look like:
 - Welcome
 - Secretary's Report
 - Financials
 - 2025 Goals and Accomplishments (with trail and legislative committee highlights)
 - 2026 Proposed Goals

- Voting
- Lunch
- Guest Speaker (Dr. Wilkinson)
- Trail Accomplishments Slides
 - Monica and Laurie to present trail work highlights (Moosalamoo and Willoughby completion as major 2025 accomplishments).
 - Monica/Jeannette will include info and photos from the retreat presentation Monica made.
- 2025 Minutes and Transparency
 - The 2025 annual meeting minutes are 3-4 pages in length, so Emma will not have to read them aloud at the meeting.
 - Jeannette will post them on the Facebook page and the VHC website for review before the meeting, and hard copies will be available at the meeting for in-person review.
- Financial Slides
 - Mikayla is creating income comparison charts (2024 vs 2025) in multiple formats for different viewing preferences.
 - Monica provided feedback on graph readability and formatting (remove confidence intervals, clean up account codes for clarity, etc.)
 - Jeannette and Mikayla will clean up the QuickBooks-generated charts.
 - Separate slides for income, expenses, and net/end of year position
- 2026 Goals
 - Jeannette will add the goals Emma wrote in the November retreat meeting notes into the presentation slides.
- Voting/Elections
 - Discussion about who should present the slate of candidates (should be an impartial person not running for office).
 - Jeannette will ask Heidi if she would be willing to do this
 - Ask for nominations from the floor; if none, vote on the slate as presented.
 - Michelle and Emma haven't received any written ballots or email ballots from members.
 - Jeannette to add slate of candidates to the slides.
 - 19 people have registered so far (30-ticket capacity)
- Closing Remarks
 - Jeannette is planning brief "thank you/passing the torch" remarks before adjournment

7:28pm - Annual Meeting Food and Logistics - Jeannette + Monica

- Food Sign-Up Status
 - Laurie - Lasagna (with hamburger - not vegetarian)
 - Monica - Switching to vegetarian soup (to provide a vegetarian option alongside the meat lasagna)
 - Mikayla - flatware and serving supplies
 - Michelle - fruit platter and veggie platter ordered (both for 20 people)
 - Kerrie to bring scones or muffins as breakfast/welcome item
 - See the sign-up list in the shared drive for the remaining items BoD members are bringing

- Technology and Equipment
 - Kerrie will bring her computer and run the Zoom meeting
 - Plan to use the speaker in the meeting room for Zoom audio
- Door Prizes and Raffle
 - Monica and Kerrie are coordinating the door prizes
 - A basket of small items for attendees to choose from, and tickets for larger door prize drawings.
 - Larger items include a saddle pad and a saddlebag
- Quilt Raffle
 - Michelle is bringing quilts to choose from for a raffle for a "sneak peek" at the annual meeting.
 - Laurie to take photos with her camera
 - Photos will be used to launch the raffle separately after the meeting (not selling tickets at the annual meeting).
 - Board members did not provide feedback on which of the five offered quilts to use, so Michelle will select the ones she thinks will perform best.
 - Potential drawing date could be at the NEK Equine Expo (end of May)

7:35pm - Insurance Coverage - Mikayla

- Mikayla is waiting for a quote from C. Jarvis (works with Vermont Morgan Horse Association)
- Mikayla received a call from NFP representative with questions about what specific coverage is needed and liability coverage concerns.
 - Trail riding exclusion found in the current policy language
 - Exception for clinics where people ride their own horses
 - Uncertainty about coverage for members riding on VHC-maintained trails
 - Additional insured requirements (ANR and others)
 - Purpose of additional insured status unclear (contractual requirement vs. other reasons)
- The previous Swenson quote was triple our existing rate, and other agents provided quotes without asking for detailed specifics. NFP was the first to question whether VHC has appropriate coverage.
- Mikayla is concerned that the previous low rate may have been due to inadequate coverage versus getting a good rate that was maintained.
- The board needs to clearly define required coverage before finalizing insurance, and this will be a high priority to discuss at the February retreat.
- Monica will reach out to VTBC and/or other similar organizations (AHC, VMBA, etc.)
- Laurie can ask Dog River and Midstate Riding clubs
- Jeannette to reach out to Luke

New Business

7:50pm - Email Addresses - Michelle

- Currently, email addresses are assigned to a position, not a person (e.g., president@, treasurer@, boardmember4@).
- This has become an issue because people who have served in one position for multiple years have accumulated emails and folders under position addresses, which are hard to switch/lost when entering a new position/title.

- The upcoming officer transition points out this logistical nightmare
- Additionally, "boardmember4@" doesn't identify who the person is to people outside the BoD
- To avoid this issue in the future, Michelle proposes we change to name-based emails (e.g., first.last@)
- Email stays with a person as long as they are serving on the BoD, in a committee position, or a role requiring VHC email access (regardless of position changes)
 - All board members use email signatures identifying their position.
 - Most organizations use name-based emails, not position-based.
 - Easier to maintain continuity and access to old emails.
 - Gmail makes forwarding between multiple emails easy.
- Emails can be archived to Google Drive when someone leaves the BoD.
- Some position-based emails can be maintained
 - membership@ (Robin) - members don't always know who handles membership
 - business@ (Jeannette) - used for SAM renewal and organizational business renewal; difficult to change in the SAM system
 - info@ (general/catch-all email) - receives general inquiries and Stripe payment notifications
 - trails@ (unclear if currently active; Monica not receiving forwards)
- Kelsey can set up forwarding from old position emails to new name-based emails.
- Existing accounts (Canva, Jotform, etc.) will keep login credentials; only incoming email routing needs updating.
- Everything should be consolidated to @vthorsecouncil.org (not @gmail or .com) for consistency.
- Jeannette and Michelle to discuss with Kelsey and include on upcoming technology meeting agenda.

8:00pm - Trails Committee Meeting - Monica

- The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday (January 20th), but Monica will be unavailable.
- Monica proposed rescheduling to January 27th to meet before the FPR meeting.
- Trail Committee members in attendance confirmed tentative availability.
- FPR meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th at 11:00am.

8:03pm - Adjournment

Links:

Parking Lot:

- Insurance Coverage

Proposed Minute Corrections:

Name	Date/Time	Change	Vote