

Vermont Horse Council Board of Directors and Members Meeting
May 12, 2026
7:00pm via Zoom

Attending: Michelle Brewster (P), Jeannette Cole (VP), Monica Raymond (BOD), Laurie Baird (BOD), Robin Severy (BOD), Ryne Kessler (BOD), Mikayla Pick (BOD)

Absent: Lisa Lafont (BOD), Carrie Garvey (BOD)

Agenda:

Call to Order @ 7:03 (quorum met)- Michelle

Special Announcement- Michelle

- Emma O'Neil has submitted her resignation letter, effective immediately. Michelle will email a copy to all board members, and add to the May Meeting Folder for review. Requests a special vote to accept resignation.
- Will discuss how to manage the Secretary vacancy until either interim member can be found. Will be replaced at next annual meeting.

Treasurer Report - Ryne

- Unable to present. Informed the board that he is still not on the accounts or able to access financials. Stated that he has had difficulty connecting with Mikayla/Nancy to get signatures and access established on current accounts.
- Mikayla was absent, but provided the financials in the BOD updates:
 - Checking account: \$21645.74
 - Savings account: \$6124.88
- Mikayla hand delivered the Sponsorship check for NEIMA to Steve Perkins
- It was also disclosed that Insurance has still not been paid and established with AllState.
- Ryne indicated he will send message to Nancy to expedite transfer of account access.

New Business

NEK Expo Attendance- Jeannette, Michelle

- Michelle and Jeannette met in person to discuss talking points at the NEK on May 30-31 for bringing in new membership, volunteerism, and current projects VHC is managing.
- Jeannette is going to type up the talk points and share them, so they may be printed and posted at the booth. Other display considerations were a slide show of pictures, a link to membership signup, and link to the website so people can see upcoming events.

- Concern over weather, and lack of support at table brought up the possibility that VHC only has the table set up on Saturday, May 30th.
- Concern over the fee to attend being paid was raised. It was determined through past emails that Lisa Lafont paid the entry fee via PayPal, and VHC needs to reimburse her.

Administrative Documents - Monica

- Monica raised the concern over where meeting minutes should be located on the shared drive. Question of access, duplicate copies, and confusion over which version is BOD accepted.
- Michelle asked the minutes go into the upcoming Meeting folder for the BOD to review PRIOR to voting to accept. After the vote, they can be moved back to the corresponding Meeting Folder on the shared drive.
- In the past, the Secretary posted "Draft" minutes on the website, and removed "Draft" label once accepted.
- After some discussion, it was vague to how it would be handled moving forward, so it may be under Old Business at the June 9th BOD Meeting, to formal resolve.

NEK Trail Reconnaissance- Monica, Everyone

- Lisa was absent, so Monica brought up the Meeting that was held with Luke O'Brien from FPR re Kingdom Heritage Lands.
- Monica is interested in going to Northwoods, and time allowing, the Victory trails, to determine riding and trail conditions, and was seeking additional company.
- Monica offered to connect with Lue to determine when the trails open, and his availability to also join.

Cease and Desist Letter- Jeannette

- Jeanette brought up that a letter was issued to her, Heidi Kranz, and Mindy Hinsdale, from the Farm Bureau, asking that all public communications stop re. the work that VEIAG (Vermont Equine Industry Advocacy Group) is doing, and the reference that VHC asked the Farm Bureau for fiscal assistance and was declined.
- Michelle and Jeannette discussed the importance of making it clear that VEIAG is not a part of VHC, but rather a separate entity, and that the communications are not coming from VHC.
- Because of past relations between VHC and the FB, and the current work VEIAG is doing in Legislature, it was decided that VHC would hold off addressing the letter until time it could be done with VEIAG and not compromise current legislative efforts.

VTGC Annual Meeting update- Monica

- Monica attended the annual VTGC Meeting in the NEK in the beginning of May
- 40-45 people in attendance, from various town trail committees, with lots of enthusiasm around trail collaboration.
- Lundenberg Snow Mobile Club came and discussed snowmobile use; Lisa and Monica discussed Horses on trails.

- Grants were discussed, including the Grant VHC applied for Mobbs Improvement, and why it was declined.
- VOREC is appealing for support, as the funding does not support grants being awarded in 2027 currently
- Claire with FPR discussed on the LRMP with Jay, Okeemo, and Camel Humps. Most of this information will be shared with VHC Trail Committee.

Adjournment- 8:06- Michelle

Links:

- Monthly Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83901908439?pwd=FeJHempUkVnK1XQ7pELEjU1Ga0dTu5.1>

Proposed Minute Corrections:

Name	Date/Time	Change	Vote