

Vermont Horse Council

President's Message

January 2013

VHC Program 2012-2013

- VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL
- "Creating a unified equine voice"
- www.vthorsecouncil.org
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- From the President... summary of 2012 and a look at 2013 Feb. 2013
- The goal for 2012 was to "make Vermont more attractive to horse people" and to use VHC to make that happen. 2012 was a start, in terms of making VHC more visible and creating a greater influence in the community. So let's take a look at some snap shots of last year and see what was done.
- American Horse Council... A delegate was sent and returned with some ideas to invigorate VHC and attract new membership. Ideas that should be incorporated into 2013 plans
- Tunbridge Annual Trail Ride... This endeavor continues to be the shining star for show casing and attracting folks to VHC. 156 riders attended the ride this year
- Equine Emergency Fund... VHC donated \$500 to the Town Family who lost their farm to a fire
- Farm Bureau... A collaboration was initiated to strengthen the ties between VFB and VHC for the purposes of policy development and legislation affecting the equine industry.
- An article was published in "Across the Fences" VFB publication encouraging mutual membership in each organization.
- Groton State Park... With the help of some VHC members, the Telephone line on the Cold Brook Trail was improved.
- Newsletter... A replacement has been found to write and issue the VHC newsletter
- Northeast Kingdom Equestrian Trails... An overture has been made to the state to further enhance the trail system in that area
- Parade group... although VHC did not participate in any local parades, the Vermont flag was represented in a parade conducted by "America on Horseback" in Ohio during Sept.
- Riding and Driving Program ... 12 VHC members received certificates of accomplishments for various levels of achievement.
- Scholarships (4H) ... 9 scholarships were awarded
- Scholarships (Cliff Murray/Floyd Fuller)... 2 scholarships were awarded
- Trail Maintenance Fund... VHC has been approached by "Across Vermont trail" to assist with washouts in the Marshfield area
- Web site... a comparison was made between the NY, NH, Mass, and VT horse council web sites

Meeting Minutes: March 2013

- Vermont Horse Council Annual Meeting
- Held at the Stonegrill Restaurant in Morrisville, Vermont on
- March 17, 2013
- The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President Ken Hoepner.
- With a few exceptions, the secretary minutes were approved by Morris Lasell, seconded
- by Ilene Douglas
- Corrections include: info from American Horse Council is in the secretary book but was not included in the newsletter (Ilene Douglas)
- The September minutes were not on the website (Jim Deberville)
- Introduction of Marta Merrick as a new member from Milton Vermont
- Treasurers Report was approved by Phyllis Civitello, seconded by Carmel Stone
- Membership report attached
- President's report:
- 2012 reports in the last newsletter
- Horse person of the year presented to Carmel Stone for 2013
- Vice President's report by Patricia Branon: recognition of VHC member Terry Rose
- Committee Reports:
- American Horse Council by Ilene Douglas: Lobbying at present on
- Immigration reform
- Identification marking for horses
- No sale of horses for human consumption
- PSA has put VHC in the public eye
- Annual Tunbridge Ride by Karen Blow
- Caterer prices are the same so prices will stay the same this year
- A band, the Phil in the Blanks will be the entertainment Saturday night
- Farm Bureau by Bev McMullin
- Bill number H202, bill for horse farms
- A person that makes more than half their income in the equine business qualifies
- Betsy Greene, Chittenden County agent worked hard on this bill
- The bill was started in 2013 but will begin next year, 2014
- Meg Costello pointed out that there was no mention of 'driving horses' in the bill. Just riding, training, boarding, etc. The bill was meant to include all equine activities.
- Newsletter by Vickie Smith
- Carmel has been a lot of help. Thank you from Vickie Smith and also to Terry Rose. Vickie had 8 or 10 members who sent emails or called and thanked her for taking over the newsletter.
- NEKET by Martha Benoit

Tunbridge Ride

- A few pictures from the Tunbridge, Vermont, ride of 2012:



Public Service Announcement

- <http://www.wcax.com/story/21978028/everything-animals-horse-safety-on-the-roads>

The Vermont Horse Council is getting the word out about rider safety on the roads.

They partnered with other agencies to create this PSA, giving drivers safety tips for sharing the roads with horses.

Earlier this month, a woman in Woodstock and her horse were hit by a truck. The council says this tragedy could have been avoided by paying close attention to the rider.

"If a horse is jiggling or heading to the center of the road, obviously the rider is having trouble. So we ask that you stop and let the rider wave you on. If they wave their arm like this (up and down), they are simply asking you to slow down," says Patricia Brannon with the Vermont Horse Council.

They say noises are known to spook the horse. So avoid squealing your brakes, or honking your horn to make your presence known.

There's also a big horse show coming up this weekend. Everything Equine runs April 27-28 at the Champlain Valley Expo.

For more information, click here: <http://cvexpo.org/EverythingEquine.html>