



# Vermont Mushers Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 8232 🐾 Essex, Vermont 05451

## **VERMONT MUSHERS ASSOCIATION MEETING DEC. 14th, 2012**

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. In attendance were: Allan Tschorn, Kathy Bennett, Erin Kelley, Gail Breslauer, Ken Haggett, Judy Gilmore, Joan Neely, Jean and Jay Coffey, and Red Goodman

Secretary's Report: Minutes from Oct. 6th and Nov. 11th were approved. Minutes from Nov. 29th were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Report was read and accepted. \$500 was held as an unencumbered expense for brochures. Ken will be reimbursed for joining Vermont Trails and Greenways as it is a good way to trade information on trails, trail making, map making etc. Gail will be reimbursed for stamps.

Membership Report: At present we have 15 members. Jay made a motion to accept all present as new members. Allan has made a wonderful map of the state showing with pushpins where all members are located.

Red made a motion to increase the maximum number of Board members from 8 to 11. Ken seconded. Motion passed.

Nominations: Kathy nominated Allan for President. Ken nominated Jean for Vice President. Allan nominated Kathy for Recording Secretary. Jean nominated Jay for Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Joan, as Secretary, cast one vote for the ballot. It was unanimously accepted.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Neely

## **VERMONT MUSHERS ASSOCIATION**

### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 14, 2012**

Meeting convened at 8:05 p.m.

Present: Ken Haggett, Red Goodman, Gail Breslauer, Joan Neely, Allan Tschorn, Erin Kelley, Jean Coffey, Jay Coffey, Kathy Bennett, Judy Gilmore

Recommended that the agenda for each meeting be published through individual e-mail so that VTMA members can see and comment on agenda items before the meeting.

The President will generate meeting agendas 2 weeks before the meeting date. The Corresponding Secretary will send the agenda to all VTMA members.

There will be 3 meetings per calendar year at regularly scheduled times. These meeting dates will be posted on the website. The dates will be:

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of April, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of June, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September. The dates for the upcoming 3 meetings for 2013 are therefore April 12, June 14, and September 20.

The VTMA Facebook page will be a closed group open to paid VTMA members only. Erin Kelley will research a Facebook page and social media options.

Ken Haggett will continue to maintain the website.

Discussion of how the VTMA Board will communicate with one another. Decision: Board members will communicate via group e-mails.

Goals for VTMA:

1. More representation from VTMA in legislative issues. Two specific issues needing attention are H303 and H340 which are in the legislative session beginning January 2013 in the House Agricultural Committee.

Humane Society of U.S., VT Federation of Dog Clubs and VT Traditions Coalition are groups to pay attention to

We cannot lobby on behalf of VTMA as that activity requires a license; instead, VTMA Board members will communicate among themselves and attend legislative sessions as needed.

Gail Breslauer will keep tabs on legislative issues. Ken Haggett will keep tabs on trail access and usage issues.

2. New membership drive. Each Board member will invite people to join.
3. Electronic brochure to be developed. The Coffey's son will be asked if he can do the graphics pro bono. The \$500 set aside from a grant for the brochure will be used for printing.
4. Establish a budget.
5. Website updated. Think of website as VTMA's "store front". Add links to related nonprofit groups. Red Goodman will redo membership forms. Mailing address will be changed to a post office box for Jay Coffey as Corresponding Secretary.

Discussed VTMA social gathering at Hulbert Outdoor Center. Will be an overnight held Saturday and Sunday April 27 and 28. 1 dinner and 1 breakfast will be provided by Hulbert. There is no facility fee. There is a lodging fee. Hulbert is dog friendly.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bennett