

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday October 21st, 2014, 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Tyler Merritt, John Flanagan, Colin Green, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor

Absent (with apologies): Tyler Merritt, Steve Bower, Callie Ewald

Also Present: Mary Houle

Copy to: Geoffrey Urbanik (Town Manger), Carol Mader (Town Offices)

Call to order 7:05 pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment.

Mary Houle was recognized, and indicated she had no immediate comments and might comments on some matters on the Agenda in due course.

Minutes of September 2014 meeting- approved with no changes

Old Business:

- Committee membership – By Select Board action (including increasing the size of the Committee by one person) Callie Ewald and Jean Bressor have been added to the committee. Welcome!
- Revision of Trails Map (Colin). Colin passed out proofs of the current draft that includes edits and improvements based on feedback from the September meeting. In connection with the Safford Preserve, Mary Houle raised two concerns: (1). Confirm that the trail and trail loop are entirely on the Safford Preserve land. Ian assured her that the Committee believes that the trail loop is entirely well within the Preserve boundaries, and that we have taken actions to discourage people from using the 'spur' that can lead them to her land. (2). Confirm whether or not Orchard Lane provides public access to the Safford Preserve, since it is a private road, and maybe only provides public access to residential properties on that road. Ian agreed to contact the Richmond Land Trust about these questions, and Mary recommended Lou Borie as the person most familiar with those matters. Printing of the map will be delayed until these points are resolved. Mary Houle also questioned why other lands with conservation easements were not identified on the draft map. Ian explained that the map only shows established trails that have public access and permission to publicize. Ian reported that the map printing costs plus delivery would be approximately \$266 for 1000, and that provisionally the Town Manager has indicated that a Town budget for promoting the Town could likely cost share since the Committee Budget this year is running low. At Mary Houle's suggestion, Jean will check to see the costs and numbers required for including the map as an insert to the Times Ink.
- Trail guided hikes – report (Jean Bressor). All three hikes were well attended. The VYCC trails would benefit from more marking. Ian will contact Keegan at VYCC to make recommendations for directional markers or signs especially at the access points on and off the road at the eastern side of the trail system, and also at the high point where you have to turn back down the hill instead of getting on to the VAST trail.

Trail Reports

Betty Preston Land – Logging is occurring, so the trails are closed until further notice, with signs placed at all trail access points. When they open again some sections will need to be re-established, and trail markers will be placed. Ian has been in contact with Billy Preston, the State Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, the County Forester and the loggers (Green Leaf Forestry). However the communication about location and timing of logging has not been very good.

Rivershore – John H. will investigate and organize possible work party to dig up poison parsnip before the ground freezes.

Johnnie Brook Road Trail – (Ian): Because of beaver activity the ground is still wet at the dogleg, but standing water level remains just below the trail. The committee agreed that grading work on the southern section between the bridge and the culvert should be scheduled for next summer.

Volunteers Green (Jack) - In good condition, Jack will check in on it after the rain this week subsides.

Old Jericho Road - John H. reported on machine and hand shovel ditching and water-bar work that has significantly improved drainage on the Trail. As of 10/12 the trail looks great, members will check on it once the rain this week subsides, and the next spring melt.

Safford Preserve (John H) – There is some mild erosion on Orchard Lane side of the trail that he continues to keep an eye on.

Other (New) Business:

Possible formalizing permission for trails on land adjacent to Broudy/Donohue land: Ian has been in contact with Tess and Mike Storrs about establishing a formal agreement for where trails might run over their land. He noted that at present there are several informal trails that provide a link between the Cochran land and the Preston Preserve (via the permitted trails on the Goudreau and Broudy/Donohue lands). The Storrs have indicated that they would appreciate the help of the Trails Committee in establishing some control over these trails. This would require coordination with the Cochrans as well as Berne Boudy and Mike Donohue. We are in contact with Jimmy Cochran, though we understand that the four Cochran children (Marylin, Barbara, Lindy, and Bobby) are the ones with deciding power over the land. Ian plans to coordinate with Tyler to speak with the neighboring landowners about an agreeable public access, and the extent to which it might be publicized.

Trails Committee mailing list – Ian reported that he has about 100 names with email addresses of people interested in the Trails. He suggested creating an email list to disperse information about trails, work parties, and other committee information. This might be a winter project. The Committee agreed that this could be useful. It was suggested also to post to FPF about the list, inviting community members to join.

Pump track at 2953 Cochran Road – Colin has seen this and will contact the property owners for general information on the track and who might be able to use it.

Colin reported that he has explored trails running through a gully from East Hill over to Jericho Road, partially on the Farr's land, and partially on VAST trails. He will seek out information on these trails.

Adjourn at about 8:22 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday November 18th, 2014