

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting  
Tuesday October 20th 2015, at 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members Present: John Hamerslough, Martha Marciel, Jean Bressor, Jim Monahan, Véronique Beittel, Ian Stokes

Absent: Callie Ewald, Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt,

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

Call to order 7pm

**Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment:**

Dennis Wasser was present for a portion of the meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Guided hikes on trails – The committee members led guided walks on the Preston Trail, VYCC trails, and on the Safford Preserve over the past few months. The VYCC walk had the highest non-committee member attendance with 8 townspeople. These walks were publicized on Front Porch Forum. There was a suggestion for holding the walks on the weekend next year.
- Fiddlehead protection – Ian (also Judy Rosovsky, Conservation Commissioner) attended a meeting with the Bolton Conservation Commission. It was agreed to write letters for restaurants, grocery stores, and the newspapers to help publicize and educate about the limits for harvesting. The next step agreed was for Judy Rosovsky to draft letters. The Richmond Trail Committee may help to post signs as the time nears and potentially communicate with landowners about protecting the fiddleheads.
- Old Roads and legal trails – Tabled until Steve Bower is in attendance
- Recording/archiving of agreements and maps: The committee will work to archive copies of the existing trail easements or agreements with landowners. Linda Parent has offered to archive these once produced. Ian will ensure that we have a complete list of landowners whose land is crossed by our trails.

**Trail Reports**

- Preston Loops

Ian and John cut up several fallen trees, including the large one at the ‘cat’ intersection. There is a sign at the dog intersection that appears to misdirect people higher up the hill rather than following the trail to the right. Ian will move the sign closer to the dog and modify signs to add more wording and/or yellow blazes. When Tyler is at a meeting we will discuss possible additions to trails on Preston land incorporating a section of trail on adjacent land (Storrs) for which they have given permission.

- Rivershore

Communication has occurred with the new landowner on the Eastern end of the trail. He is open to continuing to have the Rivershore trail entrance on his property. Committee members will add the name/address of this new landowner to our registry of those giving formal or informal agreement for trails.

Discussed the option of purchasing a string trimmer for the committee to use to help keep the Rivershore and other trails clear during the summer months. First the committee will request through Front Porch Forum a donated string trimmer, and if one is not available, the committee will use the recent donation of money to purchase one.

- Johnnie Brook Road Trail: Brush-hogging/shaping work was done.
- Volunteers’ Green: Nothing to report.
- Old Jericho Road: Nothing to report .
- Safford Preserve: John made some water bars on the hill to counter erosion.

**Other (New) Business:**

Committee Membership

Jackson Bressor has resigned from the committee. Thanks to Jackson for his service! This leaves an opening on the committee and there has already been some interest. Those interested in the position should express their interest formally to the Select Board via Carol Mader or Geoffrey Urbanik. Ian has decided that he will not be chairing the committee as of March 2016 at the latest.

Committee finances (current year):

We paid \$577.50 for mowing, ditching & grading on the Johnnie Brook Trail.

Dennis Wasser reported that there are trails behind his neighborhood of Hidden Pines/Southview that the neighbors use regularly. Recently there was a bridge that required repair and the neighborhood raised money for this project. They have a surplus and offered it to the Trail Committee to use as needed. Thanks to this neighborhood for your generosity!

Brainstormed ideas for new trails/extension trails near the Old Jericho Road Trail.

These include researching ownership of the trails near Hidden Pines, as well as exploring options for trails on David Sunshine's property.

Town website, etc.

The committee's minutes are posted to the town website monthly. The committee now has ability to add information to the trail section of the town website.

Mount Mansfield Community Television – They have offered to record the committee meetings if desired. The Committee considers that posting minutes at the Town web site is sufficient.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:15pm

Note: Next meeting Tuesday November 17th 2015