

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday November 17th 2015, at 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald, Jim Monahan, Véronique Beittel, Ian Stokes

Not present: Tyler Merritt

Also present: Kathryn Wysockey-Johnson

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

Call to order 7:05pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment: Welcome to Kathryn Wysockey-Johnson, who may be interested in participating on the Committee. The town is expected to officially announce a vacancy and open the position soon.

Minutes of October 2015 meeting.

Approved with no changes

Old Business:

- Old Roads and legal trails- Steve brought forth a discussion about the State definitions of legal trails and Class 4 roads, noting some towns have specific definitions for these routes. Steve stated Richmond does not have regulations regarding legal trails. He noted it is a possibility that the trail committee could propose wording regarding legal trails for the upcoming town plan. In discussion, it was noted that some legal trails and Class 4 Roads on the Town map are not used by the public, but they are unlikely to be of interest to the Trails Committee. Ian mentioned he had heard that the Christmas Hill Class 4 road was investigated some years ago by Williston and Richmond Select Boards, and Jeff Forward is the person who might know details.
- Recording/archiving of agreements and maps- Steve is working to have copies of the landowner agreements in two places – one in the town hall and another with the trails committee. Steve is following up with the town clerk about it.
- Weed Whackers- The committee received donations of 6 string trimmers in non-working condition. Ian has been working on them and has 3 running, after purchasing parts.
- Fiddlehead letter – Judy Rosovsky of the Richmond Conservation Commission provided a draft letter for potential purchasers of fiddleheads, educating about responsible harvesting. A second letter is being drafted for landowners and we can help distribute these in the spring. Committee members will help create a mailing list of landowners and purchasers.

Trail Reports

Discussed the option of printing trail-specific maps to keep at trailheads for visitors. Veronique will look into options for this. Callie will explore apps for checking in at trailheads and downloading trail maps.

- Preston Preserve
 - Trails at top of Preston Loop-Callie will confirm with Mike Donahue about the placement of the sign at the top of the trail to make sure it is an accurate representation of the intended current trail location. Callie and Jim will also check in with Berne Broudy and Mike Donahue about the route for the next section of trail near the prayer flags. We will also map out a section of trail paralleling the ‘Graveyard’ trail, on the Preston land. Ian will look out maps of existing trails.
 - Hunting is allowed on the Preston preserve. – Callie will post warning signs about this.
 - Signage: Two ‘Merritt Parkway’ signs requested.
- Rivershore
 - Communication with new landowner- Ian co-wrote a letter with Fritz Martin (Richmond Land Trust) to the new owners at the end of the Rivershore Trail, Justin Davis and Rachael

McLaughlin, thanking them for allowing use of the trail on their land and asking if they would like to formalize the agreement. Rerouting of the trail is needed to avoid the erosion at the beginning of the trail.

There is a large tree down in the field on the Rivershore trail across from the Cochran Rd access of Safford Preserve. John will take a look.

Bridge inspections - no known significant issues, but Committee members will make a point of checking for safety etc. issues.

- Johnnie Brook Road Trail

The trail is muddy and slippery due to poor drainage on the southern section. There is also a suggestion for more bridge railings. Greg Weston (CVTA) will come out in the spring to help with the drainage problems. A work party will be needed and we will need deliveries of gravel. Ian will check with Peter Gosselin about options, and identify likely costs.

- Volunteers' Green – a section of the trail eroded and it was re-routed by John and Ian.

- Old Jericho Road: No problems noted.

- Safford Preserve: No problems noted.

Other Business:

Ian reminded the Committee that he wishes to step down as Chairperson, and he will discuss this with possible candidates.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:20 pm

Note: Next meeting Tuesday December 15th, 2015