

Richmond Trails Committee

2-16-21

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting is held via Zoom

Present: Callie Ewald, Halle Harklau, Willie Lee, Ed Wells, Jean Bressor, Mike Donahue, Alison Aiken, Jim Monahan, Tyler Merrit, Ben Reller, Kate Kreider

No Community Members Present

1. Signage Grant: Willie stated that we have been awarded the grant and he got the sign materials yesterday. Willie will start making the signs and we will have an outdoor work party in the spring to do the sanding and painting.
2. Rivershore Trail Bridge Project: Callie stated that the Conservation Commission reached out with the suggestion of repairing some of the bridges on Rivershore. Callie will reach out to Greg Western regarding having a proposal written to secure funding to repair the bridges. The bridges on the trail will need to be looked at to determine which ones are in need of repair.
3. Sip of Sunshine Trail Cleanup and New Loop: Jim stated that the lower section has a lot of damage from the logging and will definitely need some work in the spring. This will be our first priority for trail work. He also stated that David is in agreement with putting in a new loop on his property. The potential trail is laid out in GPS and the plan is to build it this summer.
4. MMU Community Service Day: Jim asked for suggestions on projects the high school students can work on during their service day in May. Suggestions include: working on the sanding and painting of the new trail signs, work on improving a steep section of Rivershore trail, work on Sip of Sunshine.
5. Snowdog/Trail Grooming: Mike stated that he has gotten permission from Andrew's Town Forest, VYCC, and Maple Wind to groom a large loop (10-15km) for winter recreation. This will be done very soon. Mike groomed a few Preston trails on his land with the Snowdog and it went well. We discussed grooming the whole upper loop of Preston. Mike will contact the landowner Billy to see if he is agreeable to this. We discussed posting on Front Porch Forum regarding the etiquette of using groomed winter trails (ie no post holing, let the trail firm up before use, etc). Mike stated that Richmond Mountain Trails is already planning on doing this, so we will hold off for now. The Farr family was contacted regarding using the Snowdog to groom a temporary trail on their land and they are still considering it. The Farr family was also asked about the possibility

of a permanent trail: Chuck is concerned about people abusing the trail and most likely does not want a trail at this time.

6. Andrews Town Forest: Tyler stated that they signed a contract with an ecologist and a designer to design a network of 8-10 trails that would connect Andrews to Sip of Sunshine and the VYCC. The initial design should be completed by June.
7. Parking: Willie attended the newly formed Richmond Parking Committee's meeting last week. He stated that their main focus right now is parking related to river use in the summer. Their goal is to expand/add more parking for recreation related activities in the town. The committee is also looking at how to provide parking related information to visitors from out of town, such as a website. There is a possibility of some funding to maintain public recreational parking areas. Umiac is looking into running a shuttle in the summer from downtown to the river. On another note, Alison and Callie suggested putting an additional No Parking sign for the Johnny Brook Trail off of Huntington Road. People are parking in the small gravel area and it is not a parking lot.
8. Spring Trail Work: Sip of Sunshine is priority. Merritt Parkway has a wet clay section that should be rerouted.
9. Updates From Chase (not present) that Tyler discussed: Chase is working on the Williams Hill ROW path; waiting to hear back from Josh. He is also working with Jericho trails, Mobbs, and UVM to try to get a bridge across Mill Brook to connect Mobbs with Tarbox and Jericho Research Forest (UVM), where there are hopes of some improved trails as well. The bigger connection potential there would be to Richmond through the VAST trail that crosses Gov. Peck and wraps around Hidden Pines all the way to Old Jericho Rd. trail. He is working on trying to conserve that corridor with the Bike/Pedestrian Committee.