

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday December 16th, 2014, 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald.

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

Absent: John Flanagan, Jackson Bressor, Colin Green, Tyler Merritt

Call to order 7:05pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment.

Minutes of November 2014 meeting - approved with two typo corrections (scout troop 23).

Old Business:

- Revision of Trails Map – Colin was not present to report – a few corrections to the map and text are pending prior to printing. Ian will contact him again with a view to having the map printed by the new year.
- Working on formalizing permission for trails on Storrs' land adjacent to Broudy/Donohue land. John and Ian walked the land with Mike Storrs. The plan is to make the trails and boundaries better marked and official, and Mike indicated strong interest in doing that. There is currently an existing unofficial trail connecting to Cochran trails and a potential to make another trail on this property, which could then connect back onto the Preston preserve via the Broudy/Donohue land, suggested by Berne Broudy. The Committee will work to finalize trail routes by bringing all parties together, and has offered to install signs to identify agreed trails and to formalize the agreement, with the immediate aim of presenting trail plans with maps at the January Committee meeting.
- Gateway Zoning hearing report – The concern of the need for safe non-motorized access to any new development from the Park and Ride and from the village was shared at the recent public hearing.
- Mastadon tusk – There was one found in 1864 in Richmond, but the exact coordinates are unknown. The Committee is interested in knowing if it is near one of the trails. Callie is investigating via contacts at UVM.

Trail Reports- The recent snowstorm has downed trees and continues to cause trail damage and blockage. The priority for trail work parties are for the Rivershore and Volunteers Green as these are the most used.

- Betty Preston Land (as reported by Jean) – Lots of trees are down, and there is logging damage.
- Rivershore – (John H., John F. (via email) and Callie) – Multiple trees down in the western section. From Wheeler Lane to Safford's on Cochran Road is clear. Steve will coordinate a work party on the Rivershore trail one of the next two weekends. The bridge closest to the village has been repaired. It was noted that the Barlow property is for sale, and the Committee hopes to work with new owners to maintain permission for the section of trail on that parcel.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail (Ian) - no current report
- Volunteers Green (Jack) - no current report
- Old Jericho Road (Jean) - no current report
- Safford Preserve (John H) - no current report
- Nepal Trails (Steve) – Steve reported on his 3rd trip there. He and some friends trekked from 2,000ft up to 17,000ft. He agreed to the suggestion to make a presentation with his photographs at the library for the community, and the Trails Committee will help sponsor.

Other (New) Business:

- RLT Willis Farm and Gillett Pond fundraising – please donate if possible and spread the word.

- Committee Annual Report for 2014 – Ian wrote a draft and will take corrections/suggestions prior to January 2. It was agreed to identify several individuals who have made particular contributions.
- ‘Thanks’ letters to landowners who share their land – Martha will work on these.
- Correspondence with Anne O’Brien about economic potential of trails – Ian and Anne have briefly discussed and established that this is an interest of Anne’s – she copied an email to the Western Slopes. The Trails Committee is hesitant to take on any extra work for promotion of the opportunities for trail users to frequent businesses in the Town. It was also noted that advertising too widely may make some property owners less likely to offer their land for trails in the future, so we will proceed with caution. The Committee would welcome input from e.g. the Western Slopes and will make time at a regular meeting for this as needed.
- Who will be Committee chairperson in 2015? Ian! Many thanks to you!

Adjourn at about 8:23 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday January 20th, 2015