

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

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt, Colin Green, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald

Copy to: Geoffrey Urbanik (Town Manager), Carol Mader (Town Offices), Jim Monahan, Trum Rittling.

Absent: Steve Bower (with apologies)

Call to order 7:05pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment

Trum Rittling and Jim Monahan attended as interested town residents.

The Trails Committee has a new Selectboard Liaison – Lincoln Bressor.

Minutes of February 2015 meeting- approved

Old Business:

- Route 2 and Gateway- A recount is currently in process. The Trails Committee has made it known that we support planning for pedestrian and non-motorized access with any future changes. John emphasized that developers should commit to providing infrastructure (paths, etc.) to facilitate access to any new development.
- Town Plan – A subcommittee is updating the town plan. Trails committee members have submitted some comments and corrections. Steve and Ian identified and annotated paragraphs where we might provide input, so the plan is to review the pertinent sections and then break into groups and update these at the next meeting. Ian will circulate the annotated version of the current Plan.

Trail Reports

- Preston Loops (Tyler) Trail is ice and snow covered. Ian had contacted Bill Preston, and logging is expected to be completed during mud season so any required cleaning up and re-opening the trails should be possible after that. The bridge needs to be rebuilt and trail markers placed. The caution signs for Cochran Rd near the Preston Loops have not yet been installed by the road crew.
- Rivershore (John and Callie) Minimal clearing is needed. Callie plans on removing one leaning tree. Spring melt may change everything.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail (Ian) Snow and Ice, but clear. The committee has been okayed for shaping and ditching the trail. The bridge requires some strengthening of the decking.
- Volunteers Green (Jack) The trail is icy. Four trees require attention. One may be taken care of by high waters during spring melt.
- Old Jericho Road (Jean) The large tree leaning across the trail still needs removal. John spoke with a logger who is working in that area who said he could pull it out, but he has a skidder that he is not allowed to drive on the road. No clear solution for this. This downed tree is low enough to be a potential danger.
- Safford Preserve (John) There is a tree down and an unofficial spur routing around this tree has been formed.

Other (New) Business:

- Committee Membership – Two members' terms have expired and there is also one existing vacancy. Those interested need to submit a letter of interest to the town administrator.
- 2015 Plans/Goals
Regular Trail Maintenance/Tree Removal- waiting for after the spring thaw, except Old Jericho Road's large tree. Martha to check with a local tree company. John will check in with Pete Goselin about this to see whether we can suggest options. This may require some expenditure of

our funding. Also on the OJR, the railing on the bridge needs repair (possible project for the Boy Scouts?).

Johnnie Brook Trail: Shaping/ditching of the southern half would require a substantial commitment of our dollar allocation for 2015-2016. Ian plans to strengthen the bridge deck.

Gillett Pond – Martha to make contact with the Richmond Land Trust and Friends of Gillett Pond to explore their plans for the land and their interest in establishing a trail.

Brainstormed other trail options – possibilities include formalizing existing trails in the Hidden Pines area and around the Elementary School, in the East hill area, or extending the Old Jericho Road trail toward VYCC. Primary step is to check on land ownership and initiate contact.

Ian will contact the Richmond Land Trust to offer to collaborate on the Willis Hill land.

Another suggestion was to formulate a packet for land owners that includes a letter from the committee demonstrating interest in making a trail on private land and that includes information on liability and easements.

Committee will explore ways to utilize the town acquired acre on Cochran Rd.

Adjourn at 8:13 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday April 21st, 2015