

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday July 21st 2015, at 7pm at the Town Center**

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

Not present: Martha Marciel, Tyler Merritt.

Copy to: Geoffrey Urbanik (Town Manager), Carol Mader (Town Offices), Lincoln Bressor (SelectBoard)

Call to order 7:10pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment: None.

Minutes of June 2015 meeting: Approved, no changes.

Old Business:

- Ethics Policy – Conflict of Interest
 - o All those present signed the Ethics Policy Contract.
- Guided hikes on trails

The following were agreed, and the first two will double as Committee Meetings (to be warned for public). Publicity text to be drafted by Jean. Ian to contact Keegan Tierney (VYCC).

 - o Preston Preserve- Tuesday, August 18th, 6:00 pm
 - o VYCC- Tuesday, September 15th, 5:30 pm
 - o Safford Preserve- Wednesday, October 7th, 5:30 pm
- VYCC Trails
 - o There are three spots where Trails Committee would like to add signage- Very beginning of the trail, under the power lines, and where it crosses the VAST trail. Ian will discuss again with Keegan Tierney.
- Planning for Fiddlehead protection next year.

Tabled, again, except Ian will contact Todd Liberty with a view to contacting Duxbury Conservation Commission.

Trail Reports

- Preston Loops

Additional signage on the upper loop has been installed, and more signs are being made. The colored disc trail markers will be helpful in winter – a few more are needed. Committee will ask Tyler about his proposal for a new trail to connect the ‘Four Corners’ high point down to the lower loop (via Preston Preserve land.)
There is a very large tree down where the upper loop branches from lower loop (‘cat’ branch), John and Steve will investigate, but it is not a priority (obstruction can be bypassed).
- Rivershore (John, Véronique and Callie).

Sale of property- We understand that new owners have not objected to the part of the trail on their land, John will contact them to be sure.
Beavers on Christa Kemp’s land- Beaver dam by the bridge just past the canoe access, lots of leaning trees. Jean reported on the status, and possible action by Land Trust and Christa Kemp.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail:

Ian met the excavator operator to plan ditching/shaping work, and he promised to make a proposal. Greg Western (Cross VT Trail Assoc’n) has used a motorized weed whacker to clear beside the boardwalk. The Committee discussed the idea of purchasing such a tool, but no action agreed.
- Volunteers’ Green (Jack)

A little overgrown, will take loppers to it this week.

- Old Jericho Road: Jim has cleared logs from water bar.
- Safford Preserve (John) Nothing to report.

Other (New) Business:

- Old Roads and legal trails (Steve)- Committee discussed the potential for the town to turn Class IV roads to legal trails. He will investigate whether the Town Plan should include any recommendation to protect public access to these roads and trails.
- Poison/Wild Parsnip alert- All Committee members should be able to identify wild parsnip, and know about precautions in handling it.
- Jack will write a note to Geoff Urbanik about his resignation, as he will be moving to Burlington.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:17 pm

Note: Next meeting Tuesday August 18th 2015 on conjunction with hike of Preston Preserve.