

## **Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, at 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members Present: John Hamerslough, Jean Bressor, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Tyler Merritt.

Not Present: Callie Ewald, Steve Bower, Veronique Beittel, Jim Monahan.

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

Call to order 7:07pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment: Recreation Committee member Robin Rabideau attended the meeting to discuss common interests (see New Business).

Minutes of December 2015 meeting- approved with no changes

Old Business:

- Recording/archiving of agreements and maps (tabled until Steve is present)
- Weed Whackers guardians needed. Callie and John will store some. All are 2 cycle engines and will need the gasoline/oil mix. Ian will pull them down from his garage nearer the time when they are needed.
- Fiddlehead Harvesting – Ian sent info (addressees of retailers, restaurants, media, landowners) to the Richmond and Bolton conservation commissions and Land Trust. Those groups are drafting letters to mail to the retailers, restaurants and landowners about Fiddlehead Protection. The Trails Committee could help send copies of the notices and an information letter to local landowners in the spring and post signs on the trails our committee maintains.
- Town Plan – First public meeting involving recreation was Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, second is "Natural Resources and Working Lands" on Wednesday Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. The one for transportation is Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and this topic is pertinent to the Trails Committee.
- Committee chairperson- Ian's term ends this year. As nobody has expressed interest in the chairperson position, co-chairs and rotating chairperson are options. Ian wrote out a list of chairperson responsibilities and will send to all Committee members so they can review and assess if they are willing to co-chair.

Trail Reports

- Preston Preserve: One tree is down on the Preston loop, on the cat-dog segment – Tyler will get to it. Ian explored the frontage and possible access point to the preserve off of Huntington Rd (opposite Lawrence Road) and found a large ravine there and concluded this will not be easily navigable for access to the preserve.
- Rivershore: Cemetery end of the trail has seen changes from the beavers. There is potential for them to fell a big tree over the trail.
- Johnnie Brook Trail: Ian cleared some fallen dead trees today, the trail is in good shape.
- Volunteers' Green: There is new erosion of the trail into the river towards end of sports field due to trees having fallen into the river. The trail will need to be rerouted probably into the fields. Jean will contact Harlan Stockwell and Geoff Urbanik on how to proceed and in the meantime will apply safety tape to warn people. Rod West will be tracking a XC ski trail and walking path around Volunteer's Park and the Farr's corn field behind the park.
- Old Jericho Road: No problems reported.
- Safford Preserve: In good shape.

Other (New) Business:

- Possible collaboration with Recreation Committee- Robin stated that a pool and tennis and basketball courts are popular requests. Another common idea from the 'rapid fire' Town Plan meeting was for the town to have a Recreation Director. Some towns fund this position with matching grant funds. Tyler suggested a pump track as a potential recreational feature for the town. Martha to contact Essex Junction to learn about their pump track. The committee will also explore town maps and flood plains to narrow down potential locations. Ian will add Recreation Committee members Robin Rabideau and Steve May to the email list to receive our minutes.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:11 pm

Note: Next meeting Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016