

Hello all,

I hope you are familiar with our local Richmond Trail Running Club, which has been slowly growing since summer of 2019. We are a meet-up of runners who explore the trails and dirt roads of Richmond and surrounding towns.

We are pleased to announce that we intend to offer our second charity race as a club in 2022. Our first, in November 2021, was a huge success - "RUTFest" was held at Catamount Outdoor Center, raising about \$2500 for Enough is Enough VT, The Josh Pallotta Fund, and the Catamount Center. Proceeds from our new event will go to the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe, whose land we are using, as well as local VMBA chapters who maintain our trail systems.

The proposed event is Saturday, July 9th, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The rain date in case of muddy trails is July 16th. This footrace is a single 42-mile loop, beginning and ending at Brewster-Pierce School, and will include Carse Hills trail network, Hinesburg Town Forest, Sleepy Hollow, Cochran's/Preston Networks, the Rivershore Preserve, and the Catamount Trail.

We are seeking local landowner permission, and support from town administrators, to place flagging at vital race junctions and to have about 50-60 runners pass through the relevant areas. In Richmond, this includes the following areas. We expect runner density to be about 10-20 runners per hour at these locations, and the time frame to be about 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

- **Main/Huntington Rd from Audubon center to Dugway. 0.25 miles of Dugway Road.**
- **Cochran's and Preston network (kindly coordinated by Rob Galloway with RMT).**
- **Full length of Rivershore trail preserve.**
- **From the Rivershore trail end, Wheeler Lane and Cochran Road to Duxbury Road.**

The event will include several "aid stations." One of these volunteer-run locations may be placed at Overrockers parking lot. All participants agree to a zero-tolerance littering policy and volunteers will sweep the course for trash when the flagging is pulled on Sunday, July 10th. No paper cups or plates will be distributed to runners. Participants will not be permitted aid from spectator vehicles. Participants are responsible for their own safety, although we will have CPR/First Aid certified volunteers on call. The event will be covered by a single-day event insurance policy from the American Trail Running Association.

We have received enthusiastic support from the Richmond Trails Committee, whose meeting I attended with our club co-director Maia Buckingham on March 15. Fortunately the Fellowship of the Wheel, Richmond Mountain Trails, Sleepy Hollow, the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee and Hinesburg Trails Committee have also shown support so far in this process. Please feel free to email richmondtrailrunners@gmail.com with any questions, and I look forward to discussing this event with you.

Thank you!

Ben Feinson, RTRC Co-Director

