**Richmond Trails Comm**

**7-17-18**

**Present: Katie Kreider, Ed Wells, Sasha Morey, KJ O’Grady, Callie Ewald, Jim Monohan, Mike Donohue and Jean Bressor.**

**Community members: Jon Kart and Gary Bressor**

**Proposed agenda items:**

**-agree to changes to the 6/19/2018 minutes. Ed Wells proposed the following changes:**

***“Mission Statement - It was withdrawn by me with hopes it or similar language could be added elsewhere.  The proposed statement: “Our efforts are consistent with best ecological practices , management requirements as outlined in easements and landowner agreements, respect traditional as well as evolving land/recreational uses and are in accordance with Richmond’s Code of Ethics.”***

***We spent quite a bit of time discussing the “ecological” piece.  Many points for and against RTC taking on more environmental responsibility for its trails were expressed with no final decisions or votes.  There was no time for the remaining 3 parts.***

***Wright Preston – I recall him saying at the end that he would contact David Sunshine. Wright also shared information about a Department of Agriculture program – NRCS.  Apparently this program issues grants to landowners for wildlife habitat assessment. He also suggested that we consider adding a land trust member to the RTC to serve as a resource for this kind of information.   Seems reasonable to add all of the above to the minutes.”***

**Vote to approve the minutes from May and June of 2018**

**-Jon Kart’s trail assessment project -**

**Wildlife biologist for the state**

**He asked - Do we need assessment of the trails?**

**What are the impacts of the trails to the town?**

**Folks asked what about private property?**

**Many folks involved in the trails - Richmond Land Trust, Richmond Mountain Trails,, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Cochran’s**

**The SE group overseeing in the ATF interim management plan have a toolkit for tracking trail usage**

**Mike offered that tracking 6 hours (in two week chunks) over two weeks provides the usage overall for the trail**

**Gary Bressor offered that the trail committee members know the trail best vs an outside consulting group**

**Committee members felt that they need to discuss it within the committee?**

**-Preston Management Plan -**

**Three legged stool: Billy Preston, and Forest Parks and Recreation, and then the Trails Comm..**

**Logging is the primary use of the property**

**Ed feels the other two entities are stretched and not so involved**

**Jim feels that we should take a global look at all of our properties with trails**

**Mike felt that there was minimal use on the trails**

**Callie motion: “begin the process of creating a simplified framework for management of the where we have trails”**

**Seconded by: Jim Monahan**

**Document what is considered when a trailis proposed proposed**

**Richmond Land Trust has a trail easement from the end of Thompson Road, across**

**Bill and Betty Preston and Bill and Deborah Preston's land (essentially**

**up Bill's driveway), to the beginning of the Preston Preserve trail.**

***\*Jean will check with Kate Suhoff - re management plan***

***\*Ed will draft point to be discussed - an outline***

**He will send some things around for folks to**

**Toolkit for trails was mentioned at the ATF meeting by SE group - we will look at what they create**

**-Andrews Town Forest update from Willie Lee’s notes - “Andrews forest work continues.  Looks like at this point the SE groups trail person is going to be looking at our proposal and focusing on it more... they are advising that many of the existing logging roads should not be used as trails, mostly because they are too steep.  Arrowwood will then be doing a field check along the proposed trail corridor to check for sensitive ecology etc. the SE group is also recommending to the management team that the forest be “closed” above the power line during rifle season for deer hunting. Each of these action have come with some deep discussion from the group as you can imagine…**

**Looking for a time...may next Tuesday afternoon to put in the short connector trail.  If we have 5+ or so folks it should only take a little more than an hour...**

**Email all of us”**

**-Schedule a trail work days**

***\*7/24 - Andrew’s Town Forest 200’ trail -***

 ***\*8/21 - Sip of Sunshine leaf blow, weed whack and trail work. Meet at RES at 5:30pm - bring metal rakes/clippers if you have them***