

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

Committee Members Present: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald, Also Véronique Beittel, Jim Monahan (Members as of May 1st 2015)

Absent: Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt and Colin Green

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

Call to order 7pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment:

Welcome to Véronique Beittel and Jim Monahan, the new members of the committee. Their terms will be 3 years and begin on May 1. Current member, Martha Marciel's term was also extended 3 years. Thank you to Colin Green for his work on the committee and for developing such a great new version of the Richmond Trails Map.

Minutes of March 2015 meeting approved with no changes.

Old Business:

- Town Plan – the Committee reviewed the 2012 Plan as annotated by Steve and Ian and identified suggested revisions of several sections. Throughout: change “Recreation Path Committee” to our new name “Trails Committee”. In several sections, update the list of trails (Johnnie Brook Trail, Snipe Ireland Trail, Preston loops, VYCC trails) and revise the total miles of trails. Ian summarized the process and time-frame as sent to him by Clare Rock, and summarized a phone call in which she noted that sections relating to Transportation are being worked on by outside agencies and consultants. She also said that meetings are planned soon for public input on overall ‘vision’. The Committee identified several general themes related to Transportation safety and improvements for non-motorized travel on several roads near the Village, including more bike/pedestrian friendly bikeways along Rt 2 toward the park and ride, and along Huntington Rd to the entrance of the Johnnie Brook Trail. Possibilities for future trails near the Old Jericho Road trail and extending trails on the Preston Forest Preserve were identified. Ian will add annotations to the Town Plan pdf with our proposed revisions and send it to the committee for review and additions.
- Committee goals for 2015 – Add new trail(s) on Preston Preserve to the list of goals formulated at last month's meeting.
- Martha contacted the Richmond Land Trust to offer to collaborate with them if at some point in the future they are interested in developing trails on the newly purchased Land Trust property by Gillett Pond. At this time they are still in preliminary discussions and are not ready to engage in trail planning yet.

Trail Reports-

- Preston Loops (Tyler by email) - work party on Thursday, 4/23 at 5:30 to work on sections damaged by logging.
- Rivershore (John and Callie) - erosion has occurred below Cochran's Ski Area toward the cemetery, taking out a section of the trail. The stepping stone stumps are also either submerged or tilted in both locations. The bridges are intact. No work will be done immediately since access is difficult during spring melt. There is an impromptu rerouting of the trail around the large downed tree. There is also a hanging tree that can easily be taken care of.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail (Ian) – Muddy and wet with one small section of stream-eroded trail just north of the bridge. Probably the trail can just be moved further from the brook there.
- Volunteers Green (Jack) – No major problems reported, but some leaning trees to keep an eye on.
- Old Jericho Road - John will talk with Pete Gosselin (town road crew) about big downed pine tree at the southerly end of the trail. Martha didn't hear back from her tree service contact yet.

- Safford Preserve (John) – Wet, but passable.

Other (New) Business:

- Offer of volunteers by Congregational Church – Sunday morning May 31st
Several options for work by the congregants: (1) install the trail markers on the Preston Forest trails, (2) clear brush on the southern part of the Johnnie Brook Trail (3) clear the trail that connects the Park to Railroad Street, including fixing the small bridge there (work with Harland Stockwell on this).
- Next work party is on Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 at Tyler's to work on the Preston Forest Preserve trails

Adjourn at about 8:23 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday May 19th, 2015