

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 17th, 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt, Jean Bressor. Callie Ewald.

Also present: Nick deTarnowsky

Absent: Colin Green, Jackson Bressor.

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

Call to order 7pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment.

- Proposal by Nick deTarnowsky- He is involved with Western Slopes coordinating events and is open to working with the Trail Committee to help develop a video, event or other activity to promote the trails and mission of the committee, with the hope this would increase visitors to the town and as a result improve economic opportunities for the town businesses. The committee recognizes the importance of promoting economic potential of trails but has also in the past recognized a concern about the potential negative impact high numbers of non-local trails users might have on landowners sharing their land, and for new trails that could be developed in the future. Nick noted that Dave Alofsin is a contact at MMU to work with students who may be able to help with filming sections of the trails for short videos. He will also make sure Western Slopes has a clear link to the updated trail map. It was agreed that we would stay in contact with Nick and the Western Slopes as opportunities for collaboration might arise.

Minutes of January 2015 meeting- approved with no changes

Old Business:

- 'Thanks' letters to landowners – Martha completed these. Ian has sent trail maps along with the Committee annual report and a brief note to the organizations that own or maintain land where there are the trails.
- New trails map – much positive feedback has been received. Some minor changes will be made in the next printing, including a small correction for the Safford Trail route and distance, and altering the colors so they are easier to differentiate for those with color blindness.
- The Mastadon tusk found in the area will inspire one of the future Preston trail names.
- Route 2 and Gateway- The area between the cemetery and the railroad tracks is the most difficult area in which to fit a bike/pedestrian path. The trails committee has already written a note to the Selectboard expressing the importance of keeping in mind the need for a safe pathway while they are planning for the new water/sewer lines and developing the gateway. If the bond for the water line is approved and when the Rte 2 improvements happen we will advocate further for a pathway to be included in any planning.

Trail Reports

Preston Loops – Parts of the trails are clear and able to be skied. We understand that logging will be essentially completed by mud season.

Rivershore – (John and Callie) – Jean reports a hanging tree close to the cemetery. Callie will chainsaw it.

Johnnie Brook Road Trail (Ian) – Doing well.

Volunteers Green (Jean) – The trail is doing well.

Old Jericho Road (Jean) – Still in need of some significant chainsawing. John reported that the town road crew may help with the big pine at the southern end if it becomes an imminent danger.

Safford Preserve (John) – in good shape.

Other (New) Business:

- Town Plan- the committee will mark up the existing town plan to update it and send it to the Working Group proposing a new town plan. Clare Rock is our contact person.

- Town Meeting – The Trails Committee’s annual report is in the town report. We do not have any additional points that would require attendance at the Town Meeting.
- Rod West had suggested a trail around Chuck Farr’s field. The committee had explored this in the past and it had not been an option due to concerns for the integrity of the field during the growing season.
- Donation of Digital Light Projector – from Ben & Jerry’s – has been donated for town use via John. This will assist with enlarging maps for viewing.
- Committee Vacancy- John Flanagan has moved to Starksboro and has resigned from the Committee, opening up a vacancy.
- Callie reported that she had talked with some members of the Cochran family about the copy of the Storrs agreement and cover note that had been sent to them. They would like to have additional information about how the agreed trails relate to the Cochran property, and also might like to walk up there after the thaw.

Adjourn at 8:30 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday March 17th, 2015