

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday January 20th 2015, 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: Ian Stokes, John Flanagan, Colin Green, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald

Not Present: John Hamerslough, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt.

Also Present: Gary Bressor, Rod West

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

Call to order 7pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment.

Minutes of December 2014 meeting – approved with no comment.

Old Business:

- New Trails Map (Colin) – Kudos to Colin for his exceptional creativity and hard work on this! 1000 copies of the maps arrive on the 21st. Ian is going to put 50-75 in envelopes and leave them at the Town Office with members names on them for distribution. The following places were discussed and agreed upon to try to leave some maps, as well as designee assigned to follow through;

- o Town Offices (Ian)
- o Library (Jean)
- o Parkside Kitchen (Jack)
- o Cochrans (Callie)
- o Papa McKees (Callie)
- o Bolton Nordic Center (Colin)
- o Richmond Market (?)
- o Richmond Bike Shop (Jack)
- o OGE and VYCC were discussed as potential places

Ian is going to request the map be updated at the Town website. (The link has been put on the Trails Committee website since this meeting – Ian followed up in an email).

A discussion was had regarding putting boxes at each trail head and the potential for a blow of the trail that you are on. Some sort of weather proofing would be required.

Once the website is up, the link should be put on Front Porch Forum to share.

A small blurb should also be included in the Times Ink – Jean offered to follow up with the Times Ink to develop a story.

- Possible formalizing permission for trails on Storrs' land adjacent to Broudy/Donohue land – Ian reports that this is going really well. Storrs are approving the purple trails on the map shared by Ian, this opens up the possibility of a new loop! The possibility looked at was from Storrrs' land, down to Preston trail on upper loop.
- Mastadon tusk – fact or fiction? Jack mentioned that he remembered Walter Poleman talking to his elementary class and describing the tusk somewhere on Thompson Road. To be pursued....
- 'Thanks' letters to landowners – Martha is planning to print and send. She is waiting for new maps and one page annual report to include. Thanks Martha!

Trail Reports

- Betty Preston Land – The logging was discussed. Ian will contact the State FP & R about when is the logging going to be complete.
- Rivershore – John F. reported that it is clear! Great work to all the folks that helped to clear the downed trees. It was mentioned that there is still one large downed tree, but the trail weaves around it and there is no imminent need to take care of.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail (as reported by Ian) Trail is clear, only the beavers that pose future hazard.

- Volunteers Green (as reported by Jack) Trail is fine, slightly icy but good to go.
- Old Jericho Road (as reported by Jean). Had big work party and took down 20+ trees! Still a few big trees left. John H was going to ask the Town road crew to help out with a few of the large difficult trees.
- Safford Preserve (John H) – no current report

Other (New) Business:

- Congratulations to John Flanagan on the new home purchase and move to Starksboro! This was his last meeting, but he made a point to keep him on the list for work parties. Thanks was shared by all for his time on the committee.
- Rod West stopped by the meeting to share his thoughts on two different ideas. One is the potential for a cross country ski trail the starts at the Volunteers Green and goes out into Chuck Farr's corn field. This trail would only be accessible in the winter. He has spoken to Chuck about it and mentioned that it would most likely take an official act from the town if this idea was pursued. The other idea was to extend the river trail past where it is now to be used in the winter or summer, based on if it is feasible to stay out of the corn field.
- Jack shared that there will be lights on the skating rink at the park. They will be on until 8 on the week nights and 10 on the weekends.
- After elections, it was noted that there will be a new Select Board (SB) liaison, and Ian as Chair will coordinate with the SB to identify the new person and set up a way to keep in contact.
- Gary Bressor shared his thoughts that were included in the document provided to the group before the meeting. In summary, he is suggesting that a bike path be laid out, set back from the roadway on the landowners property, over or directly next to the water and sewer line. It would keep all the construction costs within the town, and be voluntary on the part of the landowners. The scoping study was discussed and the pinch point was recognized as the curve between the cemetery, former Mann and Machine premises, and the railroad.

Adjourn at about 8:20 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday February 17th, 2015