

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
Tuesday May 19th 2015 at 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald, Jim Monahan, Véronique Beittel.

Absent: Steve Bower, Tyler Merritt

Also present: Fritz Martin

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

Call to order 7pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment: Fritz Martin was welcomed, and thanked for representing the Richmond Land Trust's concerns about fiddlehead harvesting on the Rivershore Trail.

Minutes of March 2015 meeting - approved

Protection of Fiddleheads on the Rivershore Trail – Fritz Martin from the Richmond Land Trust attended the meeting to discuss future collaboration. There have been sightings of people collecting large amounts of fiddleheads, which is prohibited on Land Trust property. There is existing signage marking the area, explaining the allowed limits (1 lb = approx one Ziploc bag per person) and no commercial harvesting. The Land Trust has previously posted signs and has been exploring solutions to encourage sustainable, individual public harvesting in the future. They learned that commercial harvesting contrary to signs posted (effectively theft) would be punishable via a fine, but would be difficult to catch and prosecute.

The plan is to ensure that there are plenty of signs on trails and approaches clearly stating what is allowed, explain best picking practices, advertise this in the community, and request restaurants and stores to ask about the picking practices of the sources of the fiddleheads they purchase. The Land Trust and other private property owners are able to prohibit it completely if they so chose, but that is not the preferred solution. Three actions were offered by the Committee:

- (1) to contact land owners for the remaining sections of the Rivershore Trail to check to see if they would like signage on their land in the future.
- (2) to contact Vermont Fresh Network and NOFA to collaborate on communicating with the local restaurant and grocery store buyers who would be asked to establish the source of fiddleheads being offered.
- (1) Nearer next year's season we can publicize this concern on Front Porch Forum and other media channels (Times Ink, etc.)

Old Business:

- Town Plan – suggested revisions of identified sections have been incorporated and will be sent to Clare Rock.
- Congregational Church – Work Party on Sunday morning May 31st. Ian reviewed the work ideas with the Congregational church and they are working on a sign-up. Ian will help lead the Johnnie Brook Trail work group. Jim and Veronique will lead the Preston Loop Trail marking with blue and yellow blazes. Jean can lead the Borden St. Fix -Up group. Meet at the Church.

Trail Reports

Preston Loops: Blazes coming soon. The work party last month was a huge success. More signage is needed – Ian has some signs to hang and will write out others that are needed and Martha will ask Karen Yaggy to make them.

Rivershore (John and Callie). The Barlows are selling their home and land on which there is an informal agreement to have access to the Rivershore Trail on the East end on their property. When the new owners are identified the committee will contact them to request continued permission to use this trail. John offered to act on this. From the canoe access to the cemetery the trail is in good shape, except for the seasonal stream section below Cochran's. Options are limited there due to the flood zone regulations.

Johnnie Brook Road Trail (Ian) A work party in addition to the church volunteers' work is needed to strengthen the bridge, to move the trail away from the collapsed section of the brook's bank just north of the bridge, and to prepare for ditching/grading of the southern section. Some ditching and culverts need cleaning out. Work Party will be Thursday, June 4 at 5:30. Will need gloves, long crow bar, loppers, bow saws, and shovels. We will ask the Farris about parking on the farm road for the work party.

Volunteers Green (Jack) - In great shape.

Old Jericho Road (Jean) - In great shape. The drainage is working well, and the big pine was cut up by the road crew.

Safford Preserve (John) – In good shape. John and Véronique have cleared recently.

Other (New) Business: (none)

Meeting adjourned at about 8:15 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday June 16th, 2015