

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting  
Tuesday November 18th, 2014, 7pm at the Town Center**

Committee Members: John Hamerslough, Ian Stokes, Martha Marciel, Tyler Merritt, John Flanagan, Colin Green, Jackson Bressor, Jean Bressor, Callie Ewald

Absent: Steve Bower

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

Call to order 7:03pm

Welcome, Introductions, and Public Comment. Welcome to Callie!

Minutes of October 2014 meeting – two typo corrections made.

Old Business:

- Revision of Trails Map (Colin) – Colin edited and updated the map and text based on Committee input. Printing is approximately \$230 for 1000 copies. To add the map to the Times Ink, it would cost between \$195-\$275. More affordable options are to send out links through Front Porch Forum after installing the new pdf at the Town website, and also deliver maps to the Town Center, local businesses and buildings, as well as laminate a few for posting at trail heads.
- Ian to continue to work with the Storrs to formalize permission for trails on their land in order to help regulate the use. This will be done in conjunction with Broudy/Donohue landowners, and keeping the Cochrans informed. It is proposed that the trail to the top of the hill (with prayer flags) should eventually be extended down through the Broudy/Donohue property and lead back to the Preston Property down to the Cemetery. Berne Broudy has suggested this. Ian has been invited to walk trails with Mike Storrs – when a date is set he will inform other interested Committee members, and subsequently update the draft agreement already sent to the Storrs.

Trail Reports

Betty Preston Land – logging is ongoing, so the trail is closed to the public. Spring trail work will be necessary to clear tree debris once the logging is complete. The State FP&R people have been asked to request the loggers try to minimize debris left on the trails.

Rivershore – (John H.) – first bridge closest to the Round Church needs a board replaced. John H. to check this out.

Johnnie Brook Road Trail – (Ian) grading, ditching and bridge decking strengthening are on the list for next year. The beavers' work has raised the water level near the boardwalk, which is posing problems.

Volunteers Green (Jack) – In good condition.

Old Jericho Road - (Report - John H.) The drainage work is done on the trail. Scout Troop 23, under the leadership of Jon Low, did two work parties to dig more ditches, clear culverts and removed an old culvert. Thanks to the Boy Scouts! The bridge is sturdy, but needs a new railing.

Safford Preserve (John H) – in good shape. Ian and John H. have walked the Land Trust property boundary and confirmed the trail loop is well within those boundaries.

Other (New) Business:

- New and revised Trail assignments for Committee members: John H – Jonesville end of Rivershore Trail to the Canoe Access. Callie from the Canoe Access down the Rivershore Trail to the Cemetery. Jean will cover the Old Jericho Rd Trail. Jackson – Volunteer's Green and helping with Preston Trail. Tyler – Preston Trail. Ian – Johnnie Brook Rd Trail.
- Do we have an opinion about the 'Gateway' zoning (trails and Rte 2 access)? Yes, many opinions. Within the context of our Mission "to establish paths for non-motorized transportation and recreation in Richmond, to maintain these paths, to link with other towns when feasible, and to promote safe citizen use of these paths" Ian expressed a concern that additional traffic and ingress/egress on Rte 2 will make the present problems for non-motorized use even worse.

The State is in charge of the changes on Rte 2, the Regional Planning Commission conducted a scoping study, but at this time there is not an overall town development plan for the Gateway District that includes a bike/pedestrian path. The trails committee would recommend the town allow for more time for making decisions about the Gateway zone in order to better make plans and recommendations that benefit the townspeople, as well as allow them to work in conjunction with the Transportation Agency and Regional Planning Commission if/when it comes to permitting. Ian will draft and circulate a letter to the Select Board expressing concerns and possible remedial actions.

- Colin to learn more about a local pump track.
- The Mastodon Mystery: Armed with her iphone, Martha quickly established that "In 1858 remains of another elephant were found in Richmond, which are now in the Cabinet of Vermont University." Inquiries will be made at UVM, especially whether the find was close to any of the trails.
- There were no requests to change the time/day of our meeting to facilitate attendance.

Adjourned at about 8:22 pm

Note: Next meeting – Tuesday December 16th, 2014