

**Minutes of Richmond Trails Committee Meeting
February 16th 2016, at 7pm at the Town Center**

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

Not present: Jim Monahan

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

Call to order 7:05pm

Welcome, Introductions and Public Comment:

Minutes of January 2015 meeting approved.

Old Business:

- Concerning the Town Report, the assignment of tree removal expenses to “Trails Maintenance” in the 2014/5 budget sheet was noted. This gives the impression that the Trails Committee went way over budget. Committee members expressed their concern that this is inappropriate and potentially misleading. Steve said he would individually follow up.
- Recording/archiving of agreements and maps – Steve helped to collect landowner agreements regarding the public trails and they are stored on a thumb drive in the town offices. This is now the way to archive new and revised material.
- Fiddlehead letter – No new steps for the Trails Committee to complete.
- Town Plan – Implications for Trails Committee - Public meeting on transportation is Feb. 17th Ian and John plan to attend and will express the committee’s desire to have extended sidewalks past the Round Church toward the nearby trails. Another suggestion is to have a sidewalk connecting the Southview neighborhood to the schools. A goal would be for people to have the option to walk or ride safely into the village along all the major approaching roadways.
- Availability of the Trail Committee chairperson position - Callie and Jean have volunteered to co-chair. Steve informed the committee about Trello, work group software that is free and could be helpful to simplify and organize future committee agenda and project planning.
- Collaboration with Recreation Committee (RC) – Martha collected preliminary information from the Essex Junction Parks group about their pump track and forwarded it to the RC. There are some local townspeople who have also expressed interest in helping, and Ian has referred the RC to our former colleague Colin Green. Planning is still in the ideas phase.

Trail Reports

- Preston Preserve:

Ian worked on a small brochure for the Preston Preserve that includes a map, description of the trails and information on parking. The goal is for the brochure to be available at the trailhead, depending on cost. We may wait to print the majority of them until after all of the Preston Trails are complete. Another option is to have a posted/laminated map at each trail intersection, or at least at the trailheads. Ian recommended sending a draft to landowners of all trail segments before posting.

Posting the URL for the trail map or telling people to take a picture of the map with their phone may work too. Martha will look into having boxes made for brochures at the trailheads.

- Rivershore: Looks good. Brainstormed ideas for the muddy area on the south side of Cochran's. Another option is to keep the old exit near the old dump clear and available during wet times.
- Johnnie Brook Road Trail: No known problems.
- Volunteers' Green: Erosion of trail into river. Jean spoke with Harlan who will look at it and confirm our plan to reroute the trail adjacent to the playing field. John replaced the yellow caution tape to warn of the dangerous area.
- Old Jericho Road: Doing well.
- Safford Preserve: No problems.

Other (New) Business:

We've been told that the web tool Trailfinder.info (links to individual trails are listed at our page at the Town web site) can show you your location as a blue dot on the map of the previously downloaded entry for the trail – try it on your smartphone, as well as MTB Project.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:03 pm

Note: Next meeting Tuesday March 15th, 2016