



Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Bombardier Meadow plans

Jim Feinson <feinson@gmavt.net>

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To: Diane <diane@gmavt.net>, Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>, Peter Gosselin <pgosselin@richmondvt.gov>, Isaac Bissell <I.Bissell@vhcb.org>, Jeremy Hoff <jeremy@hoffcoltd.com>, Jeremy Hoff <jeremydhoff@gmail.com>, Veronique Beittel <veroniquebeittel@gmail.com>, Matt Beittel <mattbeittel@gmail.com>, Alexandra Rocheleau <alexmrcheleau@gmail.com>, Aj Rocheleau <alansonrocheleau@yahoo.com>, Jane Miller <squirreljam37@gmail.com>, John Cohn <johncohn@us.ibm.com>, Jeff Pugh <emt426@gmail.com>, Bob And Amanda Bombardier <robertb@gmavt.net>, Umiak Programs <programs@umiak.com>

Cc: Assistant to the Town Manager <dwardwell@richmondvt.gov>, judijerome@gmail.com, Bradford Elliott <bradge@comcast.net>, Wright Preston <wright.preston@nsbvt.com>, Wright Preston <prelco@hotmail.com>, Ted Lyman <tlyman@gmavt.net>, Lou Borie <borie@madriver.com>, Lou Borie <borie@gmavt.net>, Jean & Gary Bressor <bressor@wcvr.com>, Dan Martin <danmarcy@gmavt.net>, Bryce Gilmer <bryce@vermontrealestatecompany.com>, "Jonathan Stebbins, Esq." <jstebbins@vtlawoffices.com>, Jonathan Smith <jjvt2fl@hotmail.com>, Frederic Martin <fpmartin@mac.com>, "Robinson, Jess" <Jess.Robinson@vermont.gov>, Jethantapper <jethantapper@gmail.com>, marciacwaite@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

The Richmond Land Trust Board has met and reviewed all of the public input we have received about future use of the Bombardier Meadow in Jonesville. Also participating in our Board meeting was Isaac Bissell, Stewardship Coordinator for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the easement holder on the Bombardier Meadow.

Here is a high-level summary of our plans for 2023:

- General parking in the meadow compromises the ecological assets of the parcel, compromises the quality of life for the neighbors, is inconsistent with the terms of the easement, and is beyond the ability of the Richmond Land Trust to manage successfully. Therefore, the meadow will no longer be open for general parking. While the RLT did provide parking on a temporary basis in recent years, that was only a stopgap measure to help address local access issues while the Town looked for other parking solutions. The Town has now developed a plan for parking/no parking, so the RLT plan is to once again close the meadow to general parking.
- The RLT plans to create 3-5 restricted parking spots, for handicap permit use only. The goal is to provide easy river access for people of all abilities. The easement provides for a maximum number of five parking spots. The recent larger parking area was permitted on a temporary basis only.
- The RLT plans to maintain the area for drop-off purposes.
- We will plan to make upgrades to improve landscape resiliency, reduce dust, and better manage use. While still to be designed, this will likely involve the installation of fabric and gravel to the new designated parking and drop-off areas. That may not happen this season.
- We will install improved signage to be clear on use guidelines and restrictions, and to direct users to alternative parking and access areas.
- We will install infrastructure elements to prevent scofflaws, such as large boulders or other semi-permanent barriers.
- We would like to work with the Town and local towing companies to provide some form of enforcement as needed.
- We are open to the addition of fill at the road level in the area between the Duxbury Road intersection and the Jonesville bridge, to improve the width of spaces off the travelled portion of the roadway and better accommodate the envisioned roadside parking permitted in that area. As that area is within the Town right of way, that is an option for the Town to consider.
- Access to the river via the Bombardier meadow by commercial float operators will still be permitted, in line with general public access. However, there will be no provision for the parking of commercial vehicles on the parcel.

These are our plans for 2023. We welcome your input now, and we will monitor their effectiveness and plan to check in mid-season and end of season to see if adjustments are needed.

These plans will be further developed and an action plan created over the coming weeks. We would be happy to work on this with neighbors, the Parking Advisory Committee, the Town and others.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss this further.

Thanks for your participation,

Jim Feinson

Stewardship Chair, Richmond Land Trust

feinson@gmavt.net

802-318-7385