

**Chessie Trail Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
October 12, 2017  
4:30 – 5:30 pm  
VMI Physical Plant Conference  
110 Hines Lane**

- Welcome
- Attendees (Atch 1)
- Introductions Around the Table
- The July 13, 2017 Advisory Committee Minutes were approved
- Action Items Update – The following were reviewed with the annotated action moving forward
  - a. Carry Over
    - i. April 13, 2017 Meeting
      - 1. Clarify the property lines of Buena Vista and Chessie Trail in the vicinity of the boat launch and the trail that extends under the Route 60 bridge (Tom R/Eric S/Jay W) – *Carry Forward to February 2018 meeting*
        - a. *Per Eric’s research, property maps found show the trail extending under the Route 60 bridge going toward BONTEX.*
      - 2. Reinstall the mile marker adjacent to Mr. Steam location (Eric S/Aaron G) – *Carry Forward to February 2018 meeting*
        - a. *On hold. VMI is relooking at parking lot locations and mile marker placement*

- VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update – Richard Fletcher informed the group that VMI decided to not proceed with the grant project due to changes in required grant bidding and reimbursement processes. VMI is looking to use the funds allocated for the project to proceed with trail projects. Jay Williams reviewed the original scope and informed the group that allocated funds would be reinvested into the trail.
- EFLAP Grant Update - Jay Williams informed the group that the process is continuing and when the federal funds are secured and all documentation is in place we [VMI] will make a public announcement through our Communications and Marketing. Keith Jarvis is the program manager for this project and will attend future meetings to keep the Advisory Committee updated.
- City of Lexington Grant Update - Noah Simon informed the group that all the documents have been transferred back to VDOT for implementation and there has not been a lot of movement. They [Lexington] will be looking at options to re-energize the process. Noah Simon verified that it includes both Lexington and County side of the bridge. Robbie Faulkner asked if the trail closure would impact this grant. Noah responded that it is his hope that the trail closure will be resolved by the time this grant project is completed. Chris Wise asked about the Jordan's Point Master Plan. Noah informed the group that there is no plan to initiate a Jordan's Point Master Plan at this time.
- City of Buena Vista Grant Update - Tom Roberts informed the group that the grant funding is available to proceed to hiring the A-E firm. He explained that BV has two grants – (1) City sidewalk improvements and (2) switchback ramp on the BV end of the trail that will connect the trail to the trail extension by the boat ramp to the sidewalk network into BV. Tom also informed the group that the City is in conversation with the owner of the BONTEX site to establish an easement through their property.

- Old Business
  - a. Rockbridge County Pocket Park – Jay asked if this is still an initiative. The item will remain on the agenda for future conversation.
  - b. FOCT - Chris Wise Email (Atch 2) – per the email, Jay reached out to Richard and Larry and they are keeping that area in good working order. Jay asked that Chris keep an eye on the area and let him know so he can coordinate
  - c. Kudzo on Trail – No further action required.
  - d. Cattle Concern – Eric would like to keep this issue on the agenda.
  - e. Pit Restrooms – Eric asked that this initiative remain on the agenda. Jay apologized for not getting back with Eric on this project and informed the group that with the remote location that there are safety concerns that need to be addressed. He will coordinate with VMI leadership and get back with FOCT.
  - f. Fence Out County – Keith Holland informed the group that the railroad has always fenced out their areas to eliminate cattle from entering property. This concept has application to ensuring the safety of trail users when the trail moves through a landowners property.
- New Business
  - a. Chessie Trail Detour along Old Buena Vista Road - Richard Fletcher and Dale Brown are working with Robbie Faulkner to establish a parking lot behind his property. Eric asked about trail closure and Richard informed them that signage will be placed at the trail transition by Mr. Steam. Jay Williams informed the group that the current set up with pushing folks up and into Old Buena Vista Road is a liability concern and a risk and establishing the new lot would address the

concern. Chris asked if there would be a designation where the trail gets started and recommended to revise the public information once the new parking area is complete. Jay also indicated that we have the same situation at the South River Bridge area. Keith asked about VMI's liability since the State has sovereign immunity. Keith also asked if the "No Trespassing" signs void the gift since the trail owner is to keep the trail open to the public. Chris feels that communication is important to informing trail users how to maneuver around the trail detour.

Lisa Tracy expressed concern with the impact of the detour on the Brushy Blue Trail Network. Chris asked if VMI is interested in the Renegade Glass property.

Jay Williams responded that VMI leadership is aware that the property is for sale.

Tom Roberts proposed that an informative sign on the current trail closure might help inform using a positive spin versus no trespassing. Keith Holland said that sign, no sign – you can't win. Eric brought the idea of installing a sidewalk along the detour and Jay informed the group that VMI looked into the option with VDOT and due to underground utilities, it was deemed not an option. Robbie asked about the prescriptive easement approach and Jay informed the group that VMI is aware of this option.

- b. Cadet Project Update - Stephanie Hodde informed the group that she met with Jay and Lisa over the summer. Originally, they were going to work on the South River Bridge but now they have changed direction, now they are looking at (1) work with the FOCT to look at signage for both ends of the trail taking into account the work already done by the A-E firms and (2) website management.

- c. South River Detour Concern – This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.  
No further discussion required.
  - d. Graffiti on mile markers (indicates elevations) – Robbie indicated that it is distance markers but no one has a lead on who might be doing it. Eric stated that the FOCT has talked about resealing the mile markers and indicated that it is on their radar for the future.
  - e. Committee Membership Change – Jay recognized Mr. Holland’s service to the Advisory Committee of which Keith was a charter member. Keith told the group that the trail is an asset and it would serve the committee moving forward to consider a replacement that owns cattle and can offer a different viewpoint. Freddie Spence and Susie Trimble would be good options. Robbie proposed Childress, however, the owner doesn’t live local. Keith mentioned it to Susie Trimble and she was interested in being involved. Jay informed the group that he would contact Susie Trimble.
- Around the Table
    - a. Eric asked for a report on the endowment for the trail. Jay asked about the purpose of the endowment information and informed the group that the funds VMI receives each year supports the mowing contract and minor maintenance.
    - b. Eric asked for permission to replace the last gate. Jay gave the FOCT the approval to replace the last gate on the trail and explained that this gate was in the grant that is not being pursued.

- c. Stephanie Hodde and her students will work with the Foundation on the endowment inquiry along with their research studies. Jay asked Stephanie to coordinate that information with him.
  - d. Jean Clark reiterated that the trail is a vital part of the Brushy Blue trail system and is looking forward to the EFLAP project proceeding.
  - e. Eric informed the group about the upcoming race and reworking the turnarounds due to the detour. To date, 210 runners have registered for the race.
  - f. Robbie brought up the kiosk project and proposed two location (1) by his property and (2) in the meadow. This information will be coordinated internal to VMI and guidance will be given to FOCT.
- Next Meeting – December 7, 2017, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Annual Public Meeting, Location:  
Preston Library
  - Adjourn

## Attendee List

### Committee Attendance

VMI Representative	Jay Williams
RACC	Chris Wise
City of Lexington	Noah Simon, City Manager
City of Buena Vista	Tom Roberts, City Planner
Tourism	Jean Clark
Adjacent Landowner	Keith Holland
Person Appointed by the VMI Designee	Eric Sheffield, FOCT

### Attendees

Betty Besal, FOCT  
Cadet Jonathan De Steuben  
Cadet Cole Elliott, VMI  
Robbie Faulkner, FOCT  
Richard Fletcher, VMI Physical Plant  
Stephanie Hodde, VMI  
Lisa Tracy, FOCT

Chris Wise's Email

Jay,

I have been tasked with being the Safety Manager for the Friends of the Chessie Trail for our CT races. One of the safety issues that is of concern is traffic on 'the runaround' at South River. I would like to ask for your help in making sure that the grass gets mown along both sides of Stuartsburg Road from the parking lot on the upriver side to Old Shepherd Road and, if possible, further along Stuartsburg toward BV on both sides and further towards Lexington on the river side. (This 'further' mowing helps improve motorists' sight lines and the folks manning the traffic control stations.)

Last spring the stretch from the parking area to Old Shepherd was done on both sides was mown and looked great BUT I was not sure who accomplished that - VMI Physical Plant, contractors for VMI or VDOT or their contractors. So I am not sure who to contact to make sure that happens again this fall before the race on Saturday, October 28th

Of course, during a race, when there are a lot of people using the road, this becomes a real issue but as more and more people use the trail it seems like a more frequent shoulder mowing schedule in this stretch by VDOT might be a reasonable request if VMI were to ask.

I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on this.

Thanks,

Chris