

**Chessie Trail Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

**September 8, 2016  
4:30 – 5:35 pm  
Hinty Hall Conference Room**

1. Attendance

a. Committee Members Present:

Col Jay Williams, VMI Post Engineer

Ms. Jean Clark, Director, Lexington/Rockbridge Area Tourism

Mr. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County

Mr. Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner

Mr. Noah Simon, Lexington City Manager

Ms. Lisa Tracy, VMI Appointed

b. Committee Member Absent:

Mr. Jay Scudder, Buena Vista City Manager

Mr. Chris Wise, RACC

c. Others Present:

CPT Aaron Groah, Staff Engineer

Cadet Alexandria Hill, ERH Department Field Work Course

MAJ Stephanie Hodde, ERH Department Field Work Course

Mr. Robbie Faulkner, FOCT

Mr. Tom Roberts, Buena Vista City Planner

Mr. Lad Sessions, FOCT

Mr. Eric Sheffield, FOCT

2. Agenda

a. Approval of the 7 July 16 Minutes

i. Moved, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as published

b. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Aaron Groah)

i. 100% drawings have been submitted to DCR for review/comment

- ii. Spring 2017 – Projected start date
    - iii. Scope of Work (Attachment 1)
  - c. City of Lexington Grant (Noah Simon)
    - i. VDOT review took 7 months and has requested that the City redo a portion of the Environmental documentation
    - ii. 7-9 month delay to incorporate additional reviews
    - iii. 12-16 months delay in project execution
  - d. City of Buena Vista Project (Jay Scudder/Tom Roberts)
    - i. City applied for a TEA grant in 2015 (unsuccessful)
      - 1. Scope was to connect the Chessie trail and Buena Vista access
      - 2. Reapplying in Fall 2016
  - e. Website Updates Needed? (Col Williams) – Reviewed the website and informed the group that it had been updated. Requested their review and comment to continue to keep it current
    - i. Jean Clark stated that she directs visitors to the site for maps of the trail
  - f. Chessie Trail Events, 15 October (Col Williams/Eric Sheffield)
    - i. Col Williams briefed the group that two running events have been scheduled on 15 October. In addition, logistics and de-conflicting the events needs to be done.
    - ii. Eric Sheffield briefed the group on the FOCT ½ Marathon/5K. To date, 230 participants from 20 states have registered [115-1/2 Marathon, 115-5K]

g. Miscellaneous

- i. Grant (Jean Clark) – An opportunity for a grant has been identified.

Specifics are but are not limited to:

1. Access to Federal Lands
2. Part of the Brushy Blue Trail
3. 80/20 match required
4. Include the South River Bridge (safety)

- ii. Hemlock Update (Lisa Tracy)

1. No sign of this species re-appearing.

- iii. Trail Improvements (Lad Sessions/Robbie Faulkner)

1. Lad Sessions passed on the following thanks from John Harralson (Property owner on Old Buena Vista Road) –  
*“Kudos to Aaron Groah for a) getting lids on the litter barrels b) getting VMI to empty the litter barrels on a regular schedule and not having any overflow c) getting VMI to provide prime paint, regular paint and paint rollers to cover the graffiti on the Memorial Bridge abutment”*
2. Eric Sheffield presented a proposal for gate improvements (Atch 2). Col Williams explained that this proposal would need to be reviewed by VMI before giving approval to begin work.

- iv. Hiking Upward (Col Williams)

1. Discussion on linking to this website and impact on the trail took place

2. VMI ERH Department will research and report back to the Committee at the 10 November meeting

h. VMI Academic Initiative (MAJ Hodde)

- i. MAJ Hodde gave the committee an overview of her classes project and the desire to make this a recurring assignment to sustain over time.
- ii. MAJ Hodde volunteered to work with Tourism on website and blogging as well as researching Hiking Upward

i. Open Discussion

i. Wheelchair access (Lisa Tracy)

- 1. Brought up the concern and to keep in mind wheelchair accessibility

ii. Swinging Bridge (Sam Crickenberger)

- 1. VDOT had provided drawings of a swinging bridge
- 2. Drawings will be shared.

***j. ACTION ITEMS***


- i. De-conflict the FOCT ½ marathon and other scheduled event on Saturday, 15 October. (POC: Eric Sheffield/VMI Physical Plant)***
- ii. Share drawings of the City project scope that shows the trail access point off of Furrs Mill Road with FOCT. (POC: Noah Simon)***
- iii. Research the Hiking Upward website and present recommendation on incorporating the Chessie trail link. (POC: MAJ Hodde/Cadet Hill)***
- iv. Share VDOT drawings of swing bridge (POC: Sam Crickenberger)***

- v. Determine availability for County meeting location for the 10 November meeting. (POC: Sam Crickenberger)*
- vi. Provide email that recognized CPT Groah and his work with the trail. (POC: Lad Sessions)*
- vii. Add Buena Vista to the FOCT membership. (POC: Eric Sheffield)*
- viii. Work with Mr. Larry Camper on 1/2 Marathon Logistics coordination. (POC: Eric Sheffield)*
- ix. Coordinate VMI Cadet volunteers and participation for the 1/2 Marathon. (POCs: MAJ Hodde/Cadet Hill/FOCT)*
- x. Work with Tourism Office on website and blog program. (POCs: MAJ Hodde/Cadet Hill)*
- xi. Coordinate proposal for gate improvement (POC: Col Williams)*

k. Next Meeting Date

- i. 17 November 2016, Community Room, Lexington Police Department
  - 1. 4:30 – 5:30 – Advisory Committee Meeting
  - 2. 6:00 – 7:00 – Public Forum

3. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.



JAMES L. WILLIAMS, JR., P.E., CEFP  
Colonel  
VMI Post Engineer

2 Attachments

- 1. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Aaron Groah)
- 2. FOCT Gate proposal, dated 9/8/16 (Eric Sheffield)

## VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update

### SOW Includes:

1. 26 space parking lot at the Old East Lex Storage Building Footprint
2. Monument Sign at the Parking Lot
3. Bollards on each side of lot for trial protection
4. Approximately .75 mile of trail resurfacing from parking lot eastward down the trail
5. Replace rotted wood members including deck boards and railing on the Mill Creek, West, and Warm Run Bridges
6. Install bollards east of the Mill Creek Entrance
7. Install french drain east of Mill Creek where there is a wet weather spring
8. Install interpretive signage at Reid's Lock and install new guard rail
9. Remove existing gate before South River and replace with bollards. Install post and panel sign.
10. 10 space parking lot at the beginning of Keith Holland's property. Install post and panel sign.
11. Install gate at the beginning of Childress property
12. Remove the gate on the BV end. Install bollards and post and panel sign.

## **FOCT Gate Proposal**

**9/8/16**

### **PROPOSAL:**

The FOCT Board requests permission from VMI for the FOCT maintenance committee to undertake installation of fencing, a pedestrian gate, and large gate at the Trimble/ Childress area of the trail. FOCT proposes to pay for the project with its own funds.

### **PURPOSE:**

These gates will continue to improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the trail, following up on the five pedestrian gates already installed by FOCT, and one by a neighboring landowner. The fencing involved would exclude livestock from 250' of the trail, in an area where their impact is often some of the worst on the trail.

### **RATIONALE:**

The pedestrian gates already installed have proven successful and popular. This area of the trail is one of the worst impacted by livestock, both in terms of erosion and making the trail surface unappealing and unsafe for both pedestrians and cyclists. The trail is already narrow, with a steep bank. Livestock travelling up and down the bank are contributing to additional erosion and narrowing of the trail.

### **DESCRIPTION & BUDGET:**

Trimble/Childress: Remove existing Trimble/ Childress gate. Install 250' of 5-strand barbed wire fence from the current Trimble/Childress gate toward BV. The new fence would run parallel to the trail on the river side, approximately 10' from the nearest edge of the trail. Reinstall the existing 12' gate and a new 4' pedestrian gate, at the area 250' from the existing gate.



|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 250' Barbed Wire Fencing | \$500                    |
| 3" Metal Gate Post       | \$0 ( donated by Robbie) |
| Self Closing Hinges      | \$25                     |
| 4' Metal Tube Gate       | \$80                     |
| 4 Bags Concrete          | \$28                     |
| 2 "Please Close" signs   | \$40                     |
| 1 small wood posts       | \$0 (donated by Eric)    |
| 1 large wood post        | \$13                     |
| <hr/> Total              | \$731                    |