

## **VMI Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Committee Meeting, August 11, 2015**

The Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Committee met at 4:00 p.m. on August 11, 2015, at the VMI Physical Plant, Hinty Hall conference room.

Attending were LTC Dallas Clark, chair; Mr. Terry Harrington, Ms. Lisa Tracy, Mr. Sam Crickenberger, Mr. Chris Wise, Mr. Keith Holland, MAJ Pegg.

### **WELCOME:**

- Introduction of MAJ Todd Pegg

### **TRAIL UPDATES:**

- A Hazard Report was completed by the VMI Civil Engineering Department with a summer intern Cadet Pike. The results of the study were shared with the committee.
- Signs denoting 'falling rock', 'private property' and 'stay on the trail' were installed in May 2015. In total, eight signs were installed.
- Mowing and Maintenance
  - o Regular review of the trail.
  - o Repair of boards and gravel.
  - o Two work orders are still open for repairs that are still pending.
  - o The Friends of the Chessie Trail committee noted that the bridges are hard to get up onto with a wheelchair.
- Recreational Trails Program Grant Update
  - o The grant is being pursued and design related services will be procured by VMI to begin design.
- Grant Update
  - o Jurisdiction involvement in the grant was a component of the grant application. The involvement of the jurisdiction will continue in the design phase.
  - o Application for the demolition of the storage building has been submitted to the Department of General Services. The application includes the endorsement of the State Department of Historic Resources and the State Art and Architectural Review Board.
  - o The installation of a swinging bridge to cross the South River portion of the trail is being investigated. More investigation and discussion on this topic is required.
  - o Experimental Gate Installation
    - User friendly gate is to be installed as a sample to keep cows in and allow people access. To be installed on Keith Hollands property. It is a self-closing gate. This will be done by the Friends of the Chessie Trail committee.
- City of Lexington
  - o The project to connect the Woods Creek Trail and the Chessie Nature Trail is beginning in a preliminary stage. Initial core boring is completed and the project may be more

expensive due to the soil and abutment conditions. The E&S plans are to be distributed for City and County Review. LPDA putting together the RFP for the bridge and the work. Bridge about 65' long...wooden deck, wooden handrails. \$70,000 for bridge. Dec – Feb construction schedule.

- Management Plan Draft
  - o The draft plan was reviewed for comment and input. The suggestion to include trail use guidelines within the report was provided.

#### NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS:

- Charter and Positions
  - o The members of the committee are reaching the end of the established first term limits. Members were requested to provide notification if they did not wish to continue with a second term.
- New Agenda Item –
  - o Discuss the connection to Buena Vista and the boundary of the Chessie Nature Trail on the BV end of the trail. Specifically, does the trail boundary extend to the Robey Bridge.
- Advertisement for annual meeting (News Gazette, RACC, Friends of the Chessie Trail).
- Dave Loss is working with Bonnie Riedesell on a 'trails for bicycle' grant. He is renting bikes in Lexington. The hope is for a county wide trail system that includes documentation of all trails.

#### NEXT MEETING:

- The next meeting would normally be scheduled on 11 Nov (the second Wednesday). This is VMI Founders Day so the meeting will be held on 10 November from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. and then a public meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.