

# Chessie Trail Advisory Committee Minutes

November 17, 2016  
4:30 – 5:30 pm  
Lexington Police Department Meeting Room

## 1. Attendance

### a. Committee Members Present:

Col Jay Williams, VMI Post Engineer

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

Mr. Tom Roberts, City of Buena Vista

Ms. Lisa Tracy, VMI Appointed

Mr. Chris Wise, RACC

### b. Committee Member Absent:

Mr. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County

Mr. Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner

Mr. Noah Simon, Lexington City Manager

### c. Others Present:

CPT Aaron Groah, Staff Engineer

MAJ Stephanie Hodde, ERH Department Field Work Course

LTC Richard Fletcher, Director, VMI Physical Plant

Mr. Eric Sheffield, FOCT

## 2. Agenda

### a. Approval of September 8, 2016 Minutes (Jay Williams)

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

### b. Action Items Update:

- i. Share drawings of the City project scope that shows the trail access point off of Furrs Mill Road with FOCT. (POC: Noah Simon)

- ii. **Research Hiking Upward website and present recommendation on incorporating the Chessie trail link. (POC: MAJ Hodde/Cadet Hill)**
    - iii. **Work with Tourism Office on website and blog program. (POCs: MAJ Hodde/Cadet Hill)**
    - ~~iv. Add Buena Vista to the FOCT membership. (POC: Eric Sheffield)~~
  - c. City of Lexington Grant Update (Noah Simon)
    - i. Still waiting on the State process
  - d. City of Buena Vista Project/Grant Update (Tom Roberts)
    - i. City of Buena Vista resubmitted the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application for the connection under the Rte. 60 Bridge
    - ii. City of Buena Vista has put in a TAP grant for street scape improvements for 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> streets.
    - iii. Reservoir Hollow trail is passable; no projects identified at this time
    - iv. Robinson Gap connection
      - 1. Jean Clark stated that Jay Scudder is interested in focusing on this area
      - 2. Tom Roberts wants to continue this discussion with Lauren, Chris and Jean.
      - 3. Action Item: Set a time to hike the location (POC: Jean C)**
  - e. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Aaron Groah)
    - i. Project went to DCR at the end of October; looking for a December-January bid
  - f. VMI Eastern Federal Lands Access Program (EFLAP) Grant Update (Jay Williams)
    - i. Grant was submitted on 15 November; looking for notification in the spring '17
  - g. Miscellaneous
    - i. FOCT - Chessie Trail ½ Marathon Update (FOCT Rep)

1. Event went well
  2. 386 registered; 327 finished
  3. 30% - students; 23.4 years old – average age
  4. \$6,000 in profit
  5. Looking to sponsor spring '17 run
- ii. Trail Improvements (FOCT Rep)
    1. Gate installation at Childress/Trimble is complete
    2. Action Item: De-conflict the current grants and the FOCT initiatives (POCs: Jay/Aaron/Eric)
  - iii. VMI Academic Initiative (Stephanie Hodde)
    1. Participated in the ½ marathon survey
    2. Action Item: Provide the survey password to Eric Sheffield (POC: MAJ Hodde)
    3. Cadets will be presenting on the Academic initiatives involved with the FOCT ½ marathon
  - iv. Website (Jay Williams)
    1. No updates were recommended
- h. Open Discussion
- i. The advisory needs to continue to discuss three areas in order to ensure the trail is “on the map” and properly maintained: (1) marketing, (2) consistent signage both on the trail and directional signage, and (3) ownership
    1. Chris Wise stated that we need to understand how each section relates as the Brushy Blue moves through Lexington, WLU, VMI, and Buena Vista, etc.
    2. The Woods Creek to Kendal connection is coming soon
    3. The committee is in agreement
  - ii. Jean Clark stated that we need VDOT support to assist with signage.

3. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Williams, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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