

Chessie Trail Public Forum Agenda

**November 17, 2016
6:00 – 7:00 pm
Lexington Police Department Meeting Room**

1. Attendance (Atch 1)
2. Agenda
 - a. Welcome (Jay Williams)
 - b. Year in Review (Jay Williams)
 - i. Added the Director of Tourism to the Advisory Committee
 - ii. Demolition of the Storage Facility
 - iii. FOCT/VMI Physical Plant Trail Maintenance
 - iv. Great teamwork, great progress!
 - c. City of Lexington Grant Update (Noah Simon)
 - i. Still waiting on the State process
 - d. City of Buena Vista Project/Grant Update (Jay Scudder/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 20th, 21st, and 22nd streets.
 - e. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Jay Williams)
 - 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. Friends of the Chessie Trail (FOCT) Initiatives
 - i. Chessie Trail ½ Marathon Update (Eric Sheffield)
 - 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 (Eric Sheffield)
 - 1. Gate installation at Childress/Trimble is complete
 - 2. **Action Item: De-conflict the current grants and the FOCT initiatives (POCs: Jay/Aaron/Eric)**
- h. VMI Academic Initiative (Stephanie Hodde)
 - i. Participated in the ½ marathon survey
 - ii. Great experience; hope to continue working on the trail with future classes
 - iii. Cadets will be presenting on the Academic initiatives involved with the FOCT ½ marathon
- i. Open Discussion
 - i. Lad Sessions
 - 1. Aaron Groah and JB Harris are great POCs to assist with trail maintenance
 - 2. The graffiti is back underneath the Rte 11 bridge
 - ii. Joan Manley
 - 1. Asked that the South River bridge decking be installed width-wise versus length-wise for wheelchair accessibility and safety. Great input.
 - 2. Informed the group about the Hike and Roll event that took place in August '16. The attendees enjoyed the day and they plan to have more events like this in the future.

iii. Several attendees voiced concern about the stretches of trail where cows are present and asked what could be done about the current situation. They also added that this is taking a toll on the river as well.

1. Action Item: Develop a plan moving forward to correct these stretches of trail (POC: Jay W)

iv. Stephanie Hodde thanked Lisa Tracy for the great support and speaking to the Cadets during academic time.

v. Chris Wise asked about the improvements on the Rte 60 end of the trail to avoid having to use the bridge to connect onto the trail that runs through Buena Vista

1. Action Item: Consider alternatives to support this safety enhancement (POC: Tom R)

3. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James L. Williams, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive script.

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

Attachment
Attendance

Attendance

1. Committee Members Present:
 - a. Col Jay Williams, VMI Post Engineer
 - b. Ms. Jean Clark, Director, Lexington/Rockbridge Area Tourism
 - c. Mr. Tom Roberts, City of Buena Vista
 - d. Ms. Lisa Tracy, VMI Appointed
 - e. Mr. Chris Wise, RACC
2. Committee Member Absent:
 - a. Mr. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County
 - b. Mr. Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner
 - c. Mr. Noah Simon, Lexington City Manager
3. Others Present:
 - a. Ms. Betty Besal, FOCT
 - b. MAJ Stephanie Hodde, ERH Department Field Work Course
 - c. LTC Richard Fletcher, Director, VMI Physical Plant
 - d. Ms. Joan Manley, FOCT
 - e. Ms. Maggie O'Brien, FOCT
 - f. Cadet Yun Park, VMI
 - g. Mr. Brian Richardson, FOCT
 - h. Ms. Frances Richardson, FOCT
 - i. Mr. Lad Sessions, FOCT
 - j. Mr. Eric Sheffield, FOCT
 - k. Ms. Rebecca Taylor, Comcast