

Chessie Trail Advisory Committee Minutes

March 10, 2016

4:30 – 5:45 pm

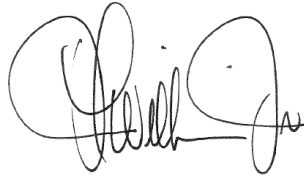
Hinty Hall Conference Room

1. Attendance
 - a. Present:
 - i. Col James Williams, VMI
 - ii. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County
 - iii. Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner
 - iv. Jay Scutter, City of Buena Vista
 - v. Noah Simon, City of Lexington
 - vi. Lisa Tracy, VMI Designee
 - vii. Jean Clark, Director of Tourism, Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism
 - b. Absent:
 - i. Chris Wise, RACC
 - c. VMI Physical Plant Staff:
 - i. LTC Richard Fletcher
 - ii. CPT Aaron Groah
2. To begin the meeting, Col Williams welcomed everyone and asked all attendees to introduce themselves
3. Advisory Committee Charter Update (Atch 1)
 - a. Col Williams presented the revised Advisory Charter that included the proposal to add Ms. Jean Clark, Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism Office
 - b. The Committee reviewed the charter
 - c. MOTION: It was moved and properly seconded to accept the proposed charter as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
 - d. *ACTION: Col Williams will submit the revised charter to BG Green and Gen Peay for review and concurrence*
4. City of Lexington Grant (Noah Simon)
 - a. The project is being funded with Transportation Equity Act (TEA)
 - b. Design submitted to VDOT for review (6 weeks to 6 months for comments)
 - i. As of early March, no action reported on the review
 - c. Construction Start Date is 6 – 12 months
 - d. *ACTION: Provide scope of work summary and a map of the project for inclusion in minutes (Noah Simon)*

5. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Aaron Groah)
 - a. Project Completion in August 2017
 - b. Scope of Work
 - i. Signage – trail head signs and landscaping around trail entrance on the Lexington end.
 - ii. Culvert repairs
 - iii. Washout repairs
 - iv. Parking Areas
 - v. Replace 8 gates
 - vi. Bollards to keep vehicles off trail
 - vii. Trail surface improvements
 - c. Lisa Tracy asked if the road leading down from McKethan Park was in the scope of the project
 - i. *ACTION: If not in the scope, include in McKethan Park maintenance program.*
 - ii. *ACTION: Schedule John Shields to present at the next meeting*
 - d. Sam Crickenberger tabled the following
 - i. Place boulders to eliminate parking along Old BV Road
 - ii. Place signage at Sewer Plant and VDOT area to indicate parking
6. Old Buena Vista Road Storage Demolition (Aaron Groah)
 - a. The Scope of Work has been finalized and the demolition project should go forward to advertise within the next two weeks
 - i. *ACTION: Work with local news media and VMI Communications and Marketing to get coverage on the project*
 - b. Lisa Tracy tabled the following:
 - i. Once the parking lot is complete, how will it be monitored
 1. *ACTION: Bring the VMI Police to the table on the project scope so they can begin to develop plan to perform surveillance*
 - ii. Once the City project is complete, it will push cars back to Jordan's Point to park and access the trail
 - iii. *ACTION: Review and report on number of parking spots at this location. (Aaron)*
7. City of Buena Vista Project (Jay Scudder) – No report.
 - a. Keith Holland informed the group that access has been blocked under the Route 60 bridge and Doug Harwood was asked to inquire
8. Miscellaneous Topics
 - a. McKethan Park Bridge (Foot/Cycling Traffic Only)
 - b. Horses on Trail
 - i. Evidence of horses accessing the trail
 - ii. Keith Holland stated that historically, horses and bicycles were not allowed

- iii. All parties agreed that we need to put a positive spin on this issue
 - iv. *ACTION: Modify trail head signs to address "Horses are not allowed on trail" (Aaron)*
 - v. *ACTION: Replace gate at Old BV Road entrance and ensure the roundabouts are functional (Aaron)*
 - vi. *ACTION: Develop social media options to get the word out (Jean/Lisa)*
 - c. ½ Marathon Along Chessie Trail, October 15th , With McKethan Park
 - i. *ACTION: Distribute position paper to the committee (Jean)*
 - d. Upcoming County Trash Clean Up Day
 - i. Sam indicated that Randy Flint was the County Organizer and he would have him send the information so it could be distributed to VMI POCs
 - 1. *ACTION COMPLETE: Information sent (Sam)*
 - ii. Jay sent an email to VMI POCs on the upcoming event and how they can participate in this event.
 - iii. In addition, the following information was discussed
 - 1. Brian Lapierre, BV Baptist Church and Community Volunteer, SVU) can be a great resource for support on future projects
 - e. New Trash Receptacle at BV end of Trail (Atch 3)
10. Open Discussion
- a. Josh Pike, VMI Cadet is working on the Turbine project with COL Gibson and Blue Ridge Stream Savers
 - a. *ACTION: Distribute information to the committee (Richard/Aaron)*
 - b. Jean tabled the idea of using interpretative signage at the location if the turbine is not pulled from the Maury River
 - b. Placement of trash cans along Old BV Road
 - a. Placed by local resident
 - b. They will be replaced in the project
 - c. County dumpster program
 - a. Sam updated the group on the proposal to remove all dumpsters locations
 - b. The concern is residents will dump on the roadside
 - d. Wastewater treatment Plant parking
 - a. Keith asked if this location can be improved to increase parking spots
 - e. Doggie Bags on the Trail – Needs to be restocked by VMI P2
 - f. Black cans on the Trail – Need to be dumped by VMI P2 in the short term
 - a. *ACTION: Acquire the plats from David Prasnicki to identify ownership (Jay)*
 - g. Next Meeting Date
 - a. **May 12, 2016, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Hinty Hall Conference Room**

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 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.
Colonel
VMI Post Engineer

2 Attachments

1. Charter
2. Photo – Trash Receptacle at Buena Vista Trail Head



Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Committee Charter

MISSION

The Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Committee was established in June 2013. The mission of the committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent of Virginia Military Institute with respect to establishment and implementation of guidelines for trail design, construction, use, maintenance and promotion, to provide a balanced approach between and among various trail users' and private land owners' interests, and to provide a forum for continued community input in the safe and sustainable use of the trail's natural and cultural resources.

MEMBERS & TERMS

The advisory committee shall consist of eight (8) members: six (6) ex-officio members, and two (2) appointed members. The ex-officio members shall be:

- (1) the Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), or designee,
- (2) the President of the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council (RACC), or designee,
- (3) the Rockbridge County Director of Development, or designee,
- (4) the Lexington City Manager, or designee,
- (5) the Buena Vista City Manager, or designee, and
- (6) the Director of Tourism, Lexington, Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, or designee.

The appointed members of the committee shall be

- (7) an owner of private land adjacent to the trail, and
- (8) a person appointed by the VMI designee.

The VMI designee shall be chairperson of the committee. The ex-officio members are eligible for unlimited terms of service, concurrent with their position. The two (2) appointed members of the committee are eligible to serve two full two-year terms (a total of four years).

It is assumed that all members have a common interest in trail access, use, safety and preservation. Therefore, the committee shall strive for consensus-based decision making, with all members having equal weight in the decision-making process. The committee shall be purely advisory to the Superintendent with no authority over use, disposition, alteration, or improvement of the trail, which is owned exclusively by Virginia Military Institute. The committee shall not advise or perform any delegated function of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Military Institute and shall not receive any public funds. All decisions of the advisory committee shall be non-binding on the Superintendent of VMI.

MEETINGS

The committee shall meet at least semi-annually to review the current use of the trail and to review any proposals brought to the committee by any member. In addition, the committee will hold an annual meeting on or about November 15 of each year to elect officers as necessary from among its members and to carry out other business that should come properly before it.

A schedule of committee meetings shall be published. The annual meeting will be open to the public. The Superintendent of VMI or designee shall always be the chairperson of the committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Committee shall

- provide recommendations on the creation of and implementation of Chessie Nature Trail Design Standards. The design standards will govern materials, construction, and placement of infrastructure and other trail elements including but not limited to benches, mile markers, signs, and parking areas.
- provide recommendations on the creation of and implementation of a Chessie Nature Trail Management Plan. The management plan will govern the maintenance and protection of natural and cultural resources, appropriate uses of the trail, and rules of visitation.
- review any proposals for physical alterations or improvements to the trail, research applications, and requests for events of large scale or long duration. Such review will include a determination and assignment of any associated project costs.
- review any materials relating to the trail, including, but not limited to, its history, visitor rules, maps, and interpretive signage prior to posting or publication.
- advise the Superintendent on matters with regard to promotion of the trail to the public.
- maintain a network of local organizations that have interest in preserving and enjoying the trail.
- identify grants and other funding sources available for trail improvements and management.

The advisory committee shall report to the Superintendent following each meeting on any recommendations made by the committee. Decision on or approval of any recommendations made by the committee shall be sought at the next meeting of the appropriate VMI decision-making body after any meeting of the advisory committee at which any action is taken, to the extent feasible. As the owning entity, VMI is exclusively authorized to undertake any and all activities related to the trail including, but not necessarily limited to, the authority to contract with one or more persons for improvement and maintenance of the trail and any associated assets, to coordinate with state agencies concerning resources on the trail and their management, and to pursue grants and other funding sources for improvements.

Chessie Trail Trash Can at BV Trail Head

