

**Chessie Trail Advisory Committee
Minutes**

**May 12, 2016
4:30 – 5:45 pm**

Hinty Hall Conference Room

1. Attendance

a. Present:

- i. Col Jay Williams, VMI
- ii. Jean Clark, Director of Tourism, Lexington and Rockbridge Area
Tourism
- iii. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County
- iv. Keith Holland, Adjacent Landowner
- v. Dave Walsh, Friends of the Chessie Trail
- vi. LTC Richard Fletcher, Interim Director of Physical Plant

b. Absent:

- i. CPT Aaron Groah, Staff Engineer, VMI Physical Plant
 - 1. Currently working the sewer main break at Third Barracks;
unable to attend
- ii. Jay Scudder, City of Buena Vista
- iii. Noah Simon, City of Lexington
- iv. Lisa Tracy, VMI Appointed
- v. Chris Wise, RACC

2. Agenda

- a. Approval of the 10 Mar 16 Minutes
 - i. Moved, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes as published
- b. Advisory Committee Charter Update

- i. Charter has been approved and signed by Gen Peay
 - ii. Charter is posted on the Chessie Nature Trail webpage on the VMI website – <http://www.vmi.edu/Content.aspx?id=10737425131>
- c. Chessie Trail Website Changes
 - i. Updates are complete; take time to review and inform Col Williams of any changes
- d. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update
 - i. LTC Fletcher informed the group that VMI had a kick off meeting with Clark- Nexsen on Friday, 6 May
 - ii. A-E presentation to the Chessie Trail Advisory Committee will be scheduled in the future
- e. City of Lexington Grant – No report
- f. City of Buena Vista Project – No report
- g. Old Buena Vista Road Storage Demolition
 - i. LTC Fletcher informed the group that the project should begin within 1-2 weeks
 - ii. An environmental assessment had to be redone; this report dictates the location of the demolition materials
 - iii. Parking
 - 1. Started general discussion on parking
 - 2. VMI installed Cadet parking in the gravel lot directly adjacent to East Lex store; could be an option for trail parking
 - 3. Sam Crickenberger asked if the existing pull-off parking areas alongside Old BV road could be abandoned (safety) once new parking is installed
 - 4. Keith Holland noted that there is a longstanding habit of parking there and it's hard to change those sorts of things
 - 5. Jean Clark pointed out that we need more signage;

- a. Sam Crickenberger will talk with Susan Hammond, VDOT about signage

iv. Signage

1. Jean brought up the need for additional signage for the parking areas at Jordan's Point and Old Buena Vista Road parking areas

h. Open Discussion

- i. Additional trash receptacles at BV end – VMI P2 has added to their checklist

1. Col Williams informed the group that Isaac Slone, Custodial Supervisor has volunteered to empty the newly placed trash receptacles at the Buena Vista end of the trail; these receptacles are located outside of the gate

ii. Additional gate installation

1. Dave Walsh presented the FOCT Maintenance Committee report on the new gate installations (Attachment 1)
 - a. LTC Fletcher requested we send all schematics and design information to Aaron Groah so he can forward it to Clark-Nexsen as information

2. Responses to Chris' inquiries, I (Dave) presented –

iii. Bamboo Removal along Trail (Attachment 2)

1. Figi Fraternity at WLU, acting without guidance or permission, removed a large portion of bamboo from the grove alongside the Chessie
2. Debris was left along the trail

a. ACTION: Contact the Fraternity to have it cleaned up (POC: Col Williams)

3. Establish procedures for requesting in the future

4. Bamboo is an invasive species and should be cut back annually

iv. Chris Wise's Inquiries (Attachment 3)

1. There is not a specification for the trail surface(s) at this time. It is being developed; maintain communication as needed
2. The wildflower area will be excluded from the mowing contract in the future

a. *The FOCT requested responsibility for maintenance of that portion of the trail and got it. We have to take care of that portion.*

3. ACTION: Coordinate with VDOT on a land use permit to mow along Stuartsburg Road (POC: Sam Crickenberger)

- a. Sam, Keith, and Jean pointed out that people mow alongside the roadways all the time without a permit.

v. Cows on Trail

1. Keith brought up that some cows on Spence's portion of the trail frequently gather in certain spots by the trail and are turning those places into muddy puddles. He asked if Jay would be able to talk to the land owners about it. Keith was not certain what actions might work, since the cows are gathering under shade trees along the trail.

vi. Half Marathon scheduled for October

1. Proceeds will go to improvements to trail and signage
2. Logistics of the event are going to be very important

vii. Hiking Upward Website

1. Jean and Col Williams agreed that the Chessie Trail needs to be linked on this website

2. ACTION: Coordinate with program manager (POC: Col Williams)

i. Next Meeting Date

a. July 7, 2016, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Hinty Hall Conference Room

3. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.





Atch 2

Chris Wise's Questions

1. The FOTC Maintenance Committee (MainCom) has been installing new 'personnel gates' for trail users and are wondering if the gates that they are installing are acceptable to VMI & the CTAC. If so, the money that would be spent on new gates from the grant could be used elsewhere. If not, then the MainCom will build to other specs.
2. The MainCom would also like to know what the finish trail surface gravel specs will be so as they fill low spots, etc that they can use the same material as will be used as part of the grant funded work.
3. The FOCT Education Committee was very happy to see the new signs marking the wildflower section. Since the trail mowing is done by a contractor how can we help ensure that the contractor knows what to mow (and not mow) in that section? FYI - The MainCom MAY be willing and able to take on this task. Also – Would it be possible to add on mowing of the right of way along Stuartsburg Road since users need to walk on the shoulders?

Atch 3