

**Chessie Trail Advisory Committee
Minutes
July 13, 2017
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Lexington-Rockbridge Tourism**

1. Welcome
2. Attendance
 - a. Col Jay Williams, VMI Post Engineer
 - b. Ms. Jean Clark, Tourism
 - c. Sam Crickenberger, Rockbridge County
 - d. Tom Roberts, City of Buena Vista
 - e. Eric Sheffield, FOCT
 - f. Mr. Chris Wise, RACC
 - g. *Note: Change of meeting location impacted Mr. Keith Holland from attending*
3. Approval of Minutes – The group approved the following minutes.
 - a. April 13, 2017 Advisory Committee Minutes
4. Action Items Update – The following were reviewed with the annotated action moving forward
 - a. Carry Over
 - i. April 13, 2017 Meeting
 1. Clarify the property lines of Buena Vista and Chessie Trail in the vicinity of the boat launch and the trail that extends under the Route 60 bridge (Tom R/Jay W) – *Carry Forward*

a. *Per Eric's research, property maps found show the trail extending under the Route 60 bridge going toward BONTEX.*

b. Carry Forward

i. Reinstall the mile marker adjacent to Mr. Steam location (Eric S/
Aaron G)

1. Update: No action at this time.

5. VMI Recreational Trails Grant Update (Aaron G)

a. Coordination with DCR continues

6. EFLAP Grant Update (Jay W)

a. Coordination with the Federal Agency to project scope

b. *Action: Does the South River Bridge access cut across private property (Rick and Ann Jones, owner)?*

7. City of Lexington Grant (Noah S (Absent))

a. No update.

8. City of Buena Vista Project (Tom R)

a. Tom reviewed the Proposed Trail Alignment and Whiting Oil Property map (Atch). He explained that the future desire is to follow the railroad line (purple), however, there are railroad bridge concerns

9. FOCT Update (Eric S)

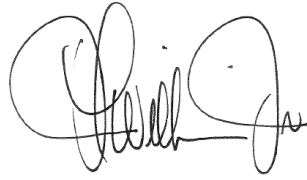
- a. FOCT ½ Marathon – presently ½ the registrants that they have seen in the past. The FOCT will not be organizing a spring event due to limited volunteers.
- b. Eric informed the group about the conservation easement on the bluff overlooking the Maury River/Chessie Trail and that the FOCT took an official stand on the matter.

10. Around the table

- a. Asa Crickenberger informed the group that he is a licensed drone pilot and he had an interest in helping with a pocket park under the Route 11 bridge
- b. Mill Creek Parking lot proposal (Atch 2)
- c. Chris Wise Email (Atch 3)
- d. Eric Sheffield's Email on Trail Counters (Atch 4)
 - i. \$2,500 (on order)
 - ii. 3 locations
 - iii. Locations where there is a concentration of trail users
- e. Water Source at Lexington Trail Head
 - i. \$5,000 (meter)
 - ii. No proposal at this time; cost prohibitive

11. Next Meeting – October 12, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Location: VMI Physical Plant
Conference Room

12. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

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

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

4 Attachments

1. Proposed Trail Alignment (Buena Vista)
2. Proposed Parking Area at Mill Creek
3. Chris Wise's Email
4. Eric Sheffield's Email on Trail Counters

Mill Creek Parking Proposal

Hello Jay,

Thanks again for coming to speak at our potluck meeting. I think everyone found it to be informative and enjoyable.

Our Maintenance Committee met last night and discussed the parking situation at the VDOT yard. There is a concern that with all of the extra parking necessitated by the bridge closure, there may be a safety concern for people crossing the road, especially those who may walk a little slower, families with strollers, and walkers with dogs.

We would propose opening up a temporary parking area adjacent to Mill Creek, similar to the attached design from the Brushy Blue Master Plan. Robbie is willing to do the work pro bono, and thinks he could develop the area in a matter of hours, using material already on site.

Please let us know if you would like us to proceed.

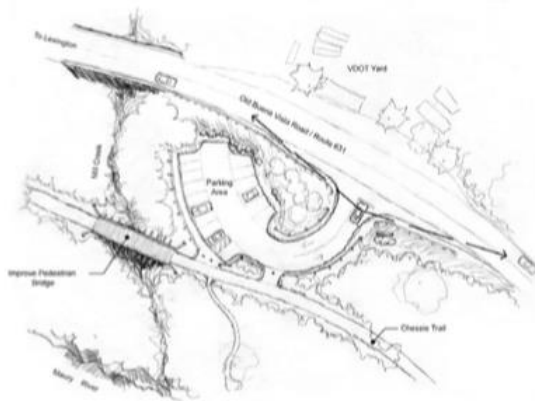
Thanks,
Eric

Access and Transportation

Trailheads

Vehicular access to the greenway will require developed parking areas in conjunction with trailheads. Access to parking areas should be well defined and easy to locate. Access should occur on

secondary road systems where traffic is calmer. Major, heavily traveled roads, should be avoided due to conflicts of turning movements and the potential need for turning lanes. Quiet residential streets should also be avoided where possible. The following streets offer good vehicular access to land potentially appropriate for vehicular trailhead development: Enfield Road/ Route 672 in Rockbridge County, Old Buena Vista Road/ Route 631 in Rockbridge County, Highland Farm Road at Route 703 in Rockbridge County, Stewardsburg Road in Rockbridge County and the end of 21st Street in Buena Vista.



Typical intermediate trailhead, at Old Buena Vista Road.

Existing community facilities also offer opportunities to develop trailheads. Schools and parks that offer existing parking and the

Chris Wise's Email

1. There is a drainage pipe that takes water under the just downstream from the cleared area (I guess on M Park property). There is a large trunk up against the concrete headwall for the pipe that severely restricts the opening of the pipe and its ability to drain the area. So far, no erosion or flooding across the trail that I could see but this is something that could cause problems later.
2. Further downstream there was one of the benches. I think the benches are a great feature along the trail but this bench had a seat made of (I guess) treated wood. The wood was in good shape but since it was weathered and the surface had opened up, it held water and was too wet to want to sit on. I wondered if any new benches or replacement seats might be better and last longer if 'plastic wood' was used.
3. The cowfields were pretty soupy because of all of the rain and the cows were so used to people that they did not move so we had to take a lot of time to pick through the cows and the cow pies. I know there are 'issues' with making this a better experience for the users of the trail but perhaps there could be some things accomplished that would improve the situation. For instance, the cows like the shade, the trees are on VMI property and if some of those trees were removed (especially some of the alien invasive paradise) there would still be some shade for cows and users but the trail could get more sun and the surface would be somewhat drier. There are also other possibilities to improve the conditions that might be worked out with the neighbor/farmer if a friendly discussion took place

Eric Sheffield's Email on Chessie Trail Counters

Hello FOCT Board,

Paul and I spent Thursday morning installing trail counter stations at Mill Ck., South River, Old Sheppard Rd., and the BV Trailhead. Counter are currently deployed and collecting data at Mill Ck., South River, and BV trailhead.

This represents the fulfillment of a proposal originally made by cadet Ruby Anjum in 2015.

Thanks,

Eric

