

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for August 3, 2022

Norwich Trails Committee Members present: Craig Layne, Cody Williams

This meeting constituted an official meeting of the Norwich Trails Committee because a quorum was present.

Volunteers present: Greg Anderson (arrived at the end of the meeting), George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer.

The agenda was approved. No comments were offered for items not on the agenda.

Work by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) on the Powers Trail is to be done in the fall. The UVTA awaits town approval for use of heavy machinery in that anticipated work on the Powers Trail.

Recent trail blockages were cleared on Brown Schoolhouse Road, Brookmead (3 blockages), and the Gile Mountain Trail. Doug Hardy and Jim Faughnan were principal workers in clearing those trails.

During a July 17 Norwich Trails Committee work session, nine participants moved substantial quantities of gravel and hardpack to improve a 234 foot section of treadway on the Gile Mountain Trail.

The next work session on Sunday August 21 is to be held on the Converse Trail (a loop off the upper Ballard Trail). Participants are to meet at 8:00 am in the large pull off on the south side of Beaver Meadow Road near the junction with Tucker Hill Road. Participants should bring work gloves and drinking water. Tools for cutting vegetation, especially ferns, and hoes will be useful.

The Schmidt Bpg boardwalk needs repairs to increase safety. On the afternoon of Thursday August 18, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer, and Cody Williams plan to visit the site to assess the situation. A number of questions remain unanswered. For example, are neighbors in favor of the presence of the boardwalk? Although public access across privately owned lands has been generously allowed in the past, it would be desirable to have more formal authorization to assure continued access into the future. Are there regulations about using pressure treated wood in such a location? If wire is to be used to increase traction for walking on the boardwalk, what are the specifications for such wire? For whatever work might be done, the Town Manager is to be kept informed.

Questions were raised about the need for a proposed kiosk at the intersection of Bradley Hill Trail, Ladeau Road, and Kerwin Hill Road. Might a simpler sign suffice at that location? The Bradley Hill Trail in its upperpart is believed to be presently outside the historic roadway so there is a case to be made for rerouting the trail to the original route. Such a reroute would require considerable effort and use of an excavator.

It was suggested that the question of Burton Woods Road load limits might be raised through a communication to the Selectboard.

Topics for the September meeting include planning for work on the Tucker Trail and in the Woody Adams Conservation Forest. Considerable planning remains to be done for potential work on the Schmidt Bog boardwalk.

It was pointed out that there is a need for more blazes along the Blue Ribbon Trail between the two towers.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark, Substitute Scribe