

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for October 1, 2014

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiske, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Peg Merrens, Liz Russell

The recently constructed stone stairway on the lower section of the Ballard Trail was discussed. A recent inspection revealed an anticipated problem with drainage across the stairway. Also, there is a potential problem in the downward outward pitch of certain stones, especially near the top. The present arrangements pose potential problems under icy conditions, and until adjustments can be made, placement of warning signs is recommended. Consultation is planned with three people involved with the stairway but not at today's meeting.

Peg Merrens of the Upper Valley Land Trust spoke about a prospective conservation easement for an additional privately owned parcel in Norwich and an associated trail easement. John Taylor of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance will be advising about new construction along a portion that prospective new trail. The Trails Committee was very enthusiastic about this prospective addition to trails open to the public in Norwich.

A grant for additional work along a lower part of the Gile Mountain Trail is to be received a bit later than originally anticipated. The committee is grateful to the Norwich Women's Club and the Conservation Commission for funding to support additional professional help on stonework construction higher on the trail. More stone needs to be brought in to finish that work. There is also a need to move gravel and other material up the trail by means of mechanical haulers.

A work session by the committee on the Gile Mountain Trail is scheduled for the morning of Sunday October 19. Participants are to meet at 8:30 AM in the Gile Mountain Trail parking lot and should bring work gloves and drinking water.

On Saturday October 25, starting at 8:30 AM, the committee will hold a work session at the Cossingham Road Farm Trails. A major objective will be to replace decking on a large bridge. Committee members can provide some nails and screws, but new boards will need to be purchased and delivered beforehand. Additional bridgework is also to be done at another location on those trails.

The agenda of the next meeting is to include the topic of connector trails at the ends of town Class III roads.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark