

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for January 7, 2015

Present: Lars Blackmore, George Clark, Eric Dole, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Jesse Frank, Jonathan Frishtick, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Jared Pendak, Brian Riordan, Liz Russell, Darrell Thompson

The Blue Ribbon Trail, also known as the Gile Mountain Ridge Trail, has been an unofficial, but frequently used, trail connecting the Gile Mountain tower and Beaver Meadow Road. The route of that trail where it crosses private parcels was initially informally authorized some years ago by verbal agreement between landowners and a representative of the trails committee. In late November 2014, a landowner, for unknown reasons, closed off a section of that trail so that it is not now permissible to traverse that route between Gile Mountain and Beaver Meadow Road. Efforts within the past several weeks to contact that nonlocal landowner have been unsuccessful, but a letter to the landowner is now to be drafted in an effort to clarify the situation.

The trails committee has placed signs at the Beaver Meadow and Turnpike trailheads and elsewhere informing trail users that the Blue Ribbon Trail is not now a through trail.

Eric Dole, Jesse Frank, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, David Hubbard, and Nick Krembs are members of a new committee charged with promoting continued existence of a trail route in the vicinity of the Blue Ribbon Trail. If the original route cannot eventually be restored, there might be possibilities for rerouting and/or creation of new trail loops using parts of the original route. Good relationships with generous landowners will be important in moving ahead on this.

A machine to be used in grooming Parcel 5 trails is not quite ready because of repairs needed in the carburetor. In any case, grooming would not now be feasible because of insufficient snow.

It was noted that the Committee to Develop Strategic Plans Addressing Quality of Community has been considering potential trail routes within Norwich village and possible connections with Hartford.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark