

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for August 6, 2014

Present: George Clark, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

A crew from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps has this week completed construction of 46 stone steps on the Ballard Trail.

Clearing of low vegetation along the northern end of the Hazen Trail beneath the power lines has recently been done.

Plans are underway for mowing trails on the Cossingham Road Farm trails. Decking needs replacement on a major bridge on those trails, and a list of materials needed is to be compiled.

Norwich trail markers purchased with a grant from the Norwich Women's Club have arrived. Some markers have already been installed, but many more remain to be put into position. Potential guidelines for placing markers along trails were discussed with a general conclusion that placement is best carefully considered in view of the needs of trail users and avoidance of unnecessary signage.

Plans were discussed for potential acquisition of a barely used DR power wagon capable of motorized transport of materials weighing up to 800 pounds. There are many trail repair and construction situations in which this machine would be useful.

Two professional trail builders constructed stone steps on the Gile Mountain Trail for two days in June. Purchase of additional stones for steps in the higher parts of that trail is needed.

A volunteer crew of about six are to work on lower parts of the Gile Mountain Trail over several days later this month as arranged by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA). The UVTA also arranged for work done on the Gile Mountain Trail by a youth crew earlier in the summer. A grant for \$20,000 awarded specifically for improvements on the lower portion of that trail has not yet been received. More materials will need to be purchased for that work.

Signage for trails as related to dogs was briefly discussed. A "stoop and scoop" sign might be inadequate without an additional directive for carrying material away.

The next scheduled work day for the committee as a whole is Saturday September 13.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark