

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for April 1, 2015

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Jesse Frank, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Rebecca Matteo, Jim McNamara, Craig Sanborn

Discussions are continuing with landowners concerning the Blue Ribbon Trail. The Blue Ribbon Committee is preparing a document, essentially a memorandum of understanding, to be given to landowners to clarify relationships between the trails, the Trails Committee, and the landowners. A Blue Ribbon Trail reroute of more than a mile will be needed if that trail is to be used this summer. As an initial step, agreements need to be reached with owners of parcels to be crossed by the proposed reroute.

The Upper Valley Land Trust and Upper Valley Trails Alliance are conducting a joint campaign to raise funds to obtain a conservation easement for the 11 acre Sample's Woods along Hopson Road and for trail easements for the Rosemary Rieser Trail to extend through Sample's Woods and the adjacent Warner Meadow. Additional information is available at http://www.uvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SamplesWoods_RieserTrail21.pdf

The Gile Mountain Trail is reported to be in satisfactory condition.

Because of accumulated snow, parking space is presently very limited at the lower end of the Ballard Trail. With the spring season at hand, trail users are urged to use discretion in selecting routes and to choose trails which have dried sufficiently to avoid damage. Certain of the numerous stream crossings along the Ballard Trail need renewed attention to facilitate crossing whether by bridges or planks.

On May 17, 2015, the Trails Committee will hold a work session to eliminate problems from a large sink hole on the Ballard Trail. Participants in that work session are to meet at 8:00 AM in the Parcel 5 parking lot and to bring work gloves and drinking water.

A work session is also to be held on National Trails Day, Saturday June 6, with participants meeting at 8:00 AM in the Huntley Meadow parking lot. Additional details are to be forthcoming.

Stone for use on the Gile Mountain Trail is to be purchased soon.

The Trails Committee discussed a draft of a Strategic Plan for trails as developed by the Quality of Life Committee. The Trails Committee very much appreciates the considerable effort devoted to preparation of the draft and has an overall positive view of the draft. Nick Krembs will be providing comments on specific items within the draft.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark