

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for May 6, 2015

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Bryon Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

The meeting began with an extensive review of the condition of specific Norwich trails.

A major need is for a new bridge on the Ballard Trail. A Trails Committee work session on Sunday May 17 is planned to install that new bridge. Participants should meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot at Parcel 5. Bring work gloves, insect repellent, and drinking water.

The next work session is to be on Saturday June 6.

A grant application has been submitted by the Land Management Committee for support of work on the Ballard Trail, and that committee is now awaiting notification about an earlier application for a grant which would, if approved, enable work by a youth crew on the Ballard Trail.

If the Trails Committee work on the Ballard Trail on May 17 can be completed in a relatively short time, some participants from that work session might then also work on a culvert on the Parcel 5 trail.

Information on the Parcel 5 kiosk needs replacement. A suggestion was made that the length of overhang be extended in kiosks built in the future so as to better protect the signage.

Burton Woods Road is passable.

A couple of fallen trees need cutting on a currently available part of the Blue Ribbon Trail.

The Gile Mountain Trail is in relatively good condition. It is proposed that the Gile Mountain Trail be closed annually during the month of April in view of problems with vehicles at the parking lot and along the upper portion of Turnpike Road during mud season this year. Closure of that trail for the month would be indicated in roadside signs to be seasonally placed along the lower part of Turnpike Road and by notice on the town listserve.

The Heyl Trail is passable as are the Cossingham Road Farm Trails. A retaining wall near Cossingham Road will need some adjustment.

The Blue Ribbon Committee has continued discussions with landowners about a possible reroute. That committee has prepared a position statement to be issued on the town listserve indicating 1) that the Blue Ribbon Trail is currently not continuous, 2) that the Trails Committee respects the right of the land owner who has closed a portion of that trail, and 3) that the Trails Committee encourages others also to respect that right.

The Trails Committee endorsed a proposal to convert a Class IV section of Illsley Road into a town trail.

A fund-raising campaign cosponsored by the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance has been successful and will enable the establishment of an easement for the Rosemary Rieser Trail to extend along Blood Brook near Hopson Road.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark

