

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for March 2, 2016

Present: George Clark, Eric Dole, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Nick Krembs, Cathy Redpath, Brian Riordan, Richard Zuckerman.

Following the discussion about the Kingdom Trail Association at the last meeting of this committee, Gered Dunne outlined plans to form a trails association in Norwich somewhat equivalent to the Kingdom Trail Association. This new private association, as yet unnamed and to be operating independently from, but cooperating with, the Trails Committee, has planned a gathering for prospective members. This event is to be held at 6 PM on Monday April 4 at the Norwich Inn. Letters introducing the idea of the association and extending invitations to that gathering are to be sent in early March. Individuals already familiar with the idea of the association then plan in mid March to contact their nearby neighbors to further encourage participation.

If approved by the Land Management Committee, a prospective trail linking Norwich Farms with the southern part of the Blue Ribbon Trail could be built. Most of the work would be straightforward, but one bridge would be required.

Fund raising for improving the Gile Mountain Trail has been going well, now coming close to two-thirds of the goal.

The committee requests that, for the few weeks during mud season, hikers, runners, dog walkers, and bikers select routes which are not damaging to trails.

The Gile Mountain Trail, along with many other Upper Valley trails, is currently icy with an unfortunate result that some users have been going off trail and thus damaging adjacent areas. To avoid additional damage during the upcoming mud season, the committee is closing the Gile Mountain Trail effective Monday March 7 and continuing until perhaps mid-April. Notice of this closure is to be placed on town and regional list serves, and special communications are to be directed to groups known to be regular users of that trail. It is hope that these actions will help to avoid problems such as experienced last year. The Gile Mountain Trail parking lot will be closed during the time of trail closure.

Parcel 5 is also to be closed for mud season.

It apparently will not be feasible to have a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps trail crew working on town trails during 2016.

The committee agreed to reinstallation of a safety rope alongside the long stone stairway on the Ballard Trail. It is anticipated that this project will be undertaken during the coming summer.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark