

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for June 1, 2016

Present: George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

Dave Hardy of the Green Mountain Club has generously provided 12 all weather signs addressing trail ethics. Signs are to be placed on kiosks or other signage sites including those at Parcel 5, Gile Mountain Trail, lower and upper ends of the Ballard Trail, Hazen Trail, and the Blue Ribbon Trail. The Upper Valley Land Trust is to be contacted about the possibility of placing one of these signs on the Brookmead Conservation Area kiosk.

The past month of May has been notable for a considerable amount of activity concerning Norwich Trails. On May 21 a ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of the rerouted Blue Ribbon Trail. On the following day, a connecting trail was completed to link the Blue Ribbon Trail with the Brookmead Conservation Area trails. Renewed work along the Gile Mountain Trail in May has seen addition of a number of yards of completed stone work and the hauling of numerous loads of materials up to that trail for future work.

The Recreation Council has been discussing potential construction of different levels of pump tracks to be used by children learning the skills of mountain biking. Three sites have been suggested but need further consideration including possible effects on plant and animal life and whatever institutional approvals might be necessary for such use of those sites.

The Trails Committee is to be holding work days for the Gile Mountain Trail on June 2, 7, 8, 14, and 17, with a possible additional session on a yet-to-be-determined date between the 14th and 17th. Belgian horses are to be used on June 8. These work sessions should enable completion of a major additional portion of the work on that trail.

Volunteers for the work sessions should bring work gloves, drinking water, and insect repellent.

Although existing wooden crib steps on the Gile Mountain Trail might not last more for than 2 or 3 additional years, it was agreed that there was no immediate need for replacement.

The two professional trail builders doing the stone work on the Gile Mountain Trail will be unavailable for several weeks in the summer, but construction activity on that trail is to resume in mid July and continue in August.

Applications for additional funding for Gile Mountain Trail work are now under review, and funds will need to be on hand to continue the work.

An exceptionally large maple tree has fallen across the upper portion of the Ballard Trail, and consideration is to be given as to how best restore the trail through that section.

To observe National Trails Day on Saturday June 4, the Trails Committee will be holding a walk, open to members of the committee and the public, going along Burton Woods Road and the Appalachian Trail to the Cossingham Farm Road Trails parking lot. Participants should meet at 8:00 AM in the Cossingham Farm Road Trails parking lot.

Bring drinking water and insect repellent.

On May 29, a walk organized by the Green Mountain Club was held along a portion the Appalachian Trail in Norwich to view authorized and unauthorized crossing points along that trail. A proposal now in preparation by Norwich residents will specify two potential crossing points for authorized crossings, and this is to be facilitated by agreements to be sought with private landowners in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail.

It is hoped to find a volunteer who can be in charge of maps, kiosks, signage, and coordination with Trailfinder.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark