

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for July 6, 2016

Present: George Clark, Eric Dole, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskien, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

Potential sites for placement of the remaining signs about trail etiquette were discussed with special attention to routes that connect with the Appalachian Trail.

Extended discussion was given to a proposed expanded neighborhood trail network which would include existing trails open to the public. The committee enthusiastically welcomes such expansion which would be spearheaded by a cooperating private group undertaking the complex task of coordinating interests of numerous landowners and trail users. The trails committee would set standards for the new trails and their maintenance. Landowner permission would be required before any trail was included on trail maps showing the neighborhood trail network. Furthermore, trails shown on a neighborhood trail network map would not lead into trails not authorized for inclusion on that map.

Eric Dole has been in communication with Doug Brown of the Upper Valley Land Trust which has authorized work by the committee on relatively minor drainage issues for trails in the Brookmead Conservation Area. A date for that work is to be set at the next meeting of this committee.

A successful spring/early summer work season has been completed on the Gile Mountain Trail with planned work on the section parallel to the powerline right-of-way now having been finished. Higher on the trail, additional stone work is to resume around the end of August and into September. In the meantime, it is planned to work with the Belgian horses to move materials into position along the upper trail in a series of work sessions to be held from 8 AM to 2 PM on each Thursday through the months of July and August. Additional funds will need to be raised to complete the work planned for this year on the Gile Mountain Trail.

A work crew sponsored by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance will be working on the Gile Mountain Trail for some days this summer.

Work will be needed on the Ballard Trail, where a fallen tree rests at the bottom of the major stone stairway. In addition, a low-hanging cable over the trail poses a risk for trail users during lightning storms.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark