

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for October 7, 2015

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Doug Hardy, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

An email address <norwichtrails@gmail.com> is to become available for members of the public to report trail conditions for immediate attention, e.g., fallen trees blocking trails. Readers of these reports are to include Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, and Nick Krembs. This email address is to be provided on trail kiosks and to be available at Tracy Hall. Doug Hardy will activate this email account, and Bob Fisken will laminate the notices for the kiosks.

The Blue Ribbon Trail remains closed. The Trails Committee continues to monitor the situation and has been in communication with the land owner. Trails Committee signs indicating the closure of that trail are reported to be still in place.

Building of new stone steps on the Gile Mountain Trail above the power line crossing is anticipated to continue in October with two skilled stone trail builders working for a few days each week.

Considerable progress has already been made in making the Gile Mountain Trail suitable for wet conditions, but more is yet to be done, and additional funds will be needed to complete stone work on the higher portion of the trail. Now there is a need for additional funding to purchase new materials, to transport those materials to locations by the upper portions of the trail, and for the actual step construction in that upper section. Nick Krembs has met with several people who are providing helpful guidance and assistance in current fund raising efforts.

Nick Krembs and Jim Faughnan are to visit a quarry on October 8 to examine stone for potential use on the Gile Mountain Trail.

Lack of control of dogs brought by hikers has remained a problem on the Gile Mountain Trail. New signage for the kiosk there is to state "Please keep your dog close by your side out of respect for neighbors and other trail users." This signage is to include also the name of the Norwich Trails Committee and the email address for trails reports.

A work session on the Gile Mountain Trail is to be held from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on October 18. Participants are to meet in the Gile Mountain Trail parking lot and should bring work gloves, drinking water, and snack if desired.

Another work session is to be on November 1 at the Cossingham Road Farm Trails. Participants are to meet at 8:30 AM and can park in the parking area along Cossingham Road. They should bring work gloves, drinking water, and a snack if desired. A few separate projects will be receiving attention including a smoothing of a section of trail, adjustment of steps near the parking area, and inspection of a bridge.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark