

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for February 4, 2015

Present: George Clark, Eric Dole, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs

New signs covering etiquette for dog walkers are to be installed at trailheads. Questions remain as to the size and locations of these signs. The committee would be satisfied with signs printed on 8.5 by 11 inch paper and laminated and then placed on the trailhead kiosks together with other such notices. Such paper signs do need periodic replacement but are relatively easy and inexpensive to produce. If, alternatively, a decision is made to produce metal signs, the committee suggested that each be placed on a pole directly below the kiosk. The general intent would be that new signs be placed close to existing signage so as not to have a proliferation of separate signs around the trailheads.

The Blue Ribbon committee has sent letters of appreciation and request for continued cooperation to private landowners of parcels traversed by the former route. No response to communications has been received from a landowner whose parcel was closed for the trail in late 2014.

If that parcel is to be permanently closed for a trail crossing, then efforts are to be made to obtain approvals from landowners for a new route bypassing the closed parcel.

The general characteristics of landowner agreements for passage of trails were discussed with reference to some well-known trail systems in Vermont. Impressive success has been achieved with verbal agreements renewed annually and with all participating landowners being treated equally.

A landowner has initiated an inquiry about effects of a potential conversion of a Class IV road into a Town Trail in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail in the southwestern part of town. Bob Fisken has volunteered to pursue further discussion with that landowner.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark