

Notes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, March 1, 2023

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255864325>

Attendees: (by Zoom)

Norwich Trails Committee (NTC) members present: Cody Williams *Absent:* Craig Layne and David Hubbard.

Volunteers and members of the public: George Clark, Bob Fiskens, Jim Faughnan, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Peter Griggs, Elliot Harik, Nick Krembs (facilitator), and Sean Ogle

Absent a quorum of the NTC, this meeting was a discussion among members of the Norwich Trails volunteers and the public

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** The facilitator, Krembs, opened the meeting at 7:00 and proposed adding discussion of future meeting venues as Item 11.
2. Comments from those present: Harik announced his interest and progress in establishing a disc golf course in town. He envisioned it possibly being on Land Management Council land, that subject to logging. His visit was a heads-up, not requiring any action of the committee or volunteers.

Town initiatives

3. Updates on:

Krembs asked Williams to provide updates on the following items of interest.

- Gile Mountain Parking—The selectboard omitted budgeting of this project from the 2023 town warrant for FY 2023-24. Flanders suggested that the committee and volunteers decide whether parking was a “town” or a “trails” issue. If the latter, volunteers could circulate a petition for an article on the March 2024 town warrant to fund the project. He suggested that a petition might be put forward for trail parking in other areas.
- Schmidt Bog—Neighbors are reportedly interested in assisting in addressing invasive buckthorn and maintaining trails surrounding the parcel. Flanders suggested that, if the property were improved for public use, it could fall on the trails volunteers to repair the boardwalk.
- Burton Woods Road—Williams agreed that the Conservation Commission should renew its request to put a discussion on instituting weight restrictions to allow trail repairs as an agenda item for the next selectboard.
- Woody Adams parcel—He suggested that some further improvements to the work completed in 2022 might be necessary.

Infrastructure

4. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported, as follows
 - Initiatives for 2023—The UVTA is encouraging regional towns to draw on its tools and other trail resources.
 - Status of Powers Road repair—He completed the Women’s Club-funded drainage and treadway improvements on the trail, last fall.

5. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned:
Krembs reported a large tree downed along the Blue-Ribbon Connector. Faughnan reported that the Ballard Trail is in fairly good shape. Fisken reported some issues with Parcel 5 that have been addressed.
6. Trail projects for 2023: Krembs proposed the following list of projects for discussion at subsequent meetings
 - Heyl Trail—Relocation of segments surveyed in 2022. Proposed for May.
 - Gile Mountain Trail—Cleaning out of ditching. Proposed for April.
 - Blue Ribbon Trail—Completion of blazing.
 - Woody Adams Parcel—Completion of trail work.
7. Update on kiosks and trails signage: Faughnan will resume building kiosks for the following trails:
 - Burton Woods at Bragg Hill Road
 - Heyl Trail at Elm Street and Bragg Hill Road
 - Powers Trail

Financial

8. Plan for funding in Trails line item in Conservation Commission budget:
Williams will report on the degree to which the Trails budget is earmarked for specific projects.
9. Possible new grants to be applied for:
Krembs suggested that no new funds are needed in 2023.

Other

10. Scribe successorship: Flanders asked for someone to consider taking over the role after he relocates to Hanover.
11. Future meeting venues: After some discussion, it was agreed that the April meeting would be by Zoom and subsequent meetings would be at the Pavilion or the Historical Society, depending on anticipated weather.
12. **Adjourn:** Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.