

Revised Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for September 7, 2016

Present: Doug Brown, George Clark, Eric Dole, Gered Dunne, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs

Doug Brown of the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) reported on planning for the Brookmead Conservation Area (BCA). Vernal pools will be delineated and a study will be designed to investigate whether trails have any impacts on vernal pool ecology. During parts of April and May, night riding on trails is discouraged so as not to interfere with spring migration for amphibians. Trails will be blazed in the near future, and UVLT is discussing how to best identify different routes. In addition to signage on the existing kiosk, small signs may be placed at entry points from Parcel 5 and from the Blue Ribbon Connector. To protect livestock, dogs are to be kept on leash at all times in the agricultural area. Hunting is encouraged. Study of the area and associated planning by the UVLT is continuing. Doug Brown and Eric Dole will be consulting soon on plans for the Trails Committee work session to be held on Saturday October 1.

From 8 to 10 AM on Saturday September 10, the Trails Committee and Recreation Council have arranged a day of appreciation for trails, and particularly new ones, in Norwich. There are to be guided bike rides and guided running to help to introduce new trails to town residents and also a guided hike on Parcel 5. All guided excursions will start in the parking lot of Parcel 5. This will be an opportunity for residents who might not be familiar with the trails to learn about these fine resources of the town.

Plans for Trails Committee work sessions on September 24 (Cossingham) and October 22 (Blue Ribbon and Connector) were also briefly discussed.

Much has been done on the Gile Mountain Trail over the summer. A limited amount of additional work is to be done in September, and it is hoped that all the stone work can be completed with less than two weeks of work in October. Although some funds are available to support this effort, additional fund raising will still be needed.

A modified procedure for the email notification of trail hazards such as fallen trees was reviewed. This will enable a more organized response to such events by the committee.

The Recreation Council is anticipating completion of a pump track for mountain biking by children to be constructed in the Huntley Meadow area this fall. This track will not require removal of any trees. In addition, authorization has been given on a trial basis for a Recreation Department class in mountain biking for children to use trails in the town nature area.

A draft version of a new map for town trails was shown and discussed. It is hoped that copies can be available for the special trails day to held on September 10 starting at Parcel 5.

A case of unauthorized trail work on Fire District Land was discussed. The hope was expressed that individuals who engage in such activity can be recruited to participate with the Trails Committee.

It was suggested that planning for the Ballard Trail be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark