

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for October 5, 2016

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

Liz Russell expressed appreciation to all those who helped on the September 24th work session on the Cossingham Road Farm Trails, where the goals for the day were met through tree and weed cutting, culvert and retaining wall work, and construction of a new little trail.

During an October 1 work session at Brookmead Conservation Area, volunteers working in two groups were able to clear reroutes around wet areas; the main loop trail is in good condition. Signage is still needed in the area.

In light of unauthorized trail work in a number of places over a period of years, the committee approved placement of durable signs reading "No Trail Work Without Prior Land Owner Permission" at a number of trailhead locations.

Phone lines crossing the Ballard Trail are now about 10 feet off the ground following utility crew work in that vicinity. A plexiglass cover at the kiosk at the lower end of the Ballard Trail has been severely damaged. A few trees were reported down on the Ballard Trail above the Grand Canyon; Doug Hardy will soon try to remove these but if unable to do so will contact others.

Particularly along lower parts of the Ballard Trail, new decking is needed for a few bridges. The southern part of the Blue Ribbon Trail is showing effects from water flows, and control work there would be beneficial. On Saturday October 22nd, the Trails Committee is to hold a work session on the Ballard Trail and southern part of the Blue Ribbon Trail. Participants are to meet at 8:00 AM in the large pullout on the south side of Beaver Meadow Road close to its intersection with Tucker Hill Road. Please bring work gloves and drinking water.

A day for trails appreciation was well attended on September 10th with three different groups enjoying hiking, running, and biking respectively.

There was discussion of the possibility of signage to encourage trail users to make donations in support of the trails.

Professional stoneworkers are working on the Gile Mountain Trail for a few days this month. It is anticipated that horses will again be hauling materials on October 18. A few very large stones have now been subdivided into more useful, smaller pieces. For 2017, remaining work for the Gile Mountain Trail is expected to involve relatively long flat turnpike stretches which will not require professional assistance. The right-of-way trail used in hauling materials to the Gile Mountain Trail is now greatly improved over its condition in early summer. To keep the Gile Mountain Trail in good condition into the future, continued attention will need to be given to keeping the water bars functioning

properly.

The new pump track for mountain biking by children at Huntley Meadow has been receiving substantial use and gathering enthusiastic praise from parents.

The email reporting system for trail blockages is now in operation, and messages can be sent to <norwichtrails@gmail.com>. Availability of this service is to be announced on the Norwich and Upper Valley listserves.

It was reported that the distance from the Gile Mountain parking lot and over the top to Beaver Meadow Road via the rerouted Blue Ribbon Trail has been measured at 5.1 miles, while the Ballard Trail is 3.5 miles in length.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark