

## Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for April 5, 2017

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, John Pepper, Gerry Plummer, Cathy Redpath, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

A report of recent illegal activity on a Norwich trail was discussed. If new ordinances are proposed which affect trails, the committee will wish to consider them in a future meeting. The committee was hopeful that any possible new ordinance affecting trails would have minimal impact on those using trails properly.

The committee is to hold work sessions on May 7 and 21 with the work sites yet to be determined. Before the scheduled work sessions, individual members of the committee will check for areas needing work. The volunteers (and their respective trails to be checked) are Cathy Redpath (Cossingham Road Farm Trails), Doug Hardy (Blue Ribbon Trail), Jim Faughnan (Gile Mountain Trail), Brie Swenson (Parcel 5), Gerry Plummer (Brookmead and Connector), Peter Griggs (Ballard Trail), Byron Haynes (also on the Connector).

Liz Russell, Nick Krembs, and Gered Dunne participated in a recent meeting in Woodstock, VT, with federal and Appalachian Trail Conservancy representatives concerning authorized and unauthorized trails in the Appalachian Trail Corridor in Norwich. It is hoped that rogue trails can be eliminated and authorized local trail passage established. It is planned to develop a proposal to achieve this objective.

Despite some difficulties in grooming Huntley Meadow trails this year, it is hoped to continue grooming in future winters.

A question was raised about the possibility of establishing additional side trails for cross country skiing on Parcel 5, and this could be a topic for future discussion.

The Department of Public Works will help with clean up of dog waste in the Nature Area as well as Huntley Meadow. Under new regulations, dogs are to be on leash in the Nature Area because children go throughout that tract where they have been contacting waste from free running dogs. There have also been problems with aggressive dogs.

The possibility of having identifying badges or clothing for trail committee volunteers interacting with the public was discussed.

Employees from a local corporation are to be helping with trail work at upcoming sessions.

A new trail network planned on private land in southeastern Norwich not far from the school will provide new opportunities for education and recreation of children.

Peter Griggs and Byron Haynes volunteered to meet with coaches and other adult leaders of children's activities about proper use of trails in the Nature Area. Their anticipated coverage on trail etiquette is to be on the agenda for the next meeting of this committee.

The first session of the ANTS running program is to be held on April 29 at Parcel 5.

Because the arrival of mud season, all trails maintained by the Trails Committee are now closed until April 22. Notice is to appear on the Norwich List Serve.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark