

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for July 5, 2017

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Dave Kruger, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Brian Riordan, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

A major rainfall on July 1st led to severe damage in some parts of town. As a consequence, the Gile Mountain Trail was closed, and subsequently the Ballard Trail was also closed. At this time it is unknown when it might be possible to reopen those trails. The committee plans to continue occasional listserv announcements about these trail closures. On the basis of reports at this meeting for some, but not all, trails, it appears, so far, that the Ballard Trail sustained the greatest damage. On July 11, a group including Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, David Hubbard, and Nick Krembs are to visit two of the impacted areas along the Ballard Trail with the aim of reaching recommendations for remedial actions.

The committee will hold a work session for the Ballard Trail on Sunday July 23. Participants are to meet at 8:00 AM in the parking area for the former town pool. Volunteers should bring work gloves, drinking water, and insect repellent.

Among trails now open are Parcel 5, Brookmead, and Blue Ribbon.

Several sources have reported unauthorized use of the Gile Mountain Trail after its closure. Anticipated data to be obtained from automatic recording of use of the Gile Mountain Trail may indicate the relative number of individuals who deliberately disregarded announcements of trail closure.

Road signs now in place concerning closure of the Gile Mountain Trail were designed for mud season so their wording does not exactly fit current conditions. Perhaps new, all season, signs will be advantageous for future use.

Brie Swenson reported that plans and work are moving ahead on the new trail between the Dresden playing fields and Main Street. The Upper Valley Trails Alliance is planning work on that trail in the vicinity of the playing fields and is also planning for work on the Gile Mountain Trail later in the summer.

A group including Gered Dunne, Doug Hardy, Sean Oogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, and Liz Russell is to be working on signage for trails.

Byron Haynes is to be organizing efforts for a new Norwich Trails Committee t shirt.

It was reported that logging is planned within a year for an area near the Blue Ribbon Trail.

It was also reported that the Selectboard is to be meeting on a rotating basis with the different town committees to receive updated reports on their respective activities.

Respectfully submitted,

George Clark