

## Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for September 6, 2017

Present: Doug Brown, George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiske, Pete Griggs, Byron Haynes, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

The subcommittee on signage has already held one meeting. Gerry Plummer is to be chairing the group. Other members are Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Pete Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, and Brie Swenson.

The committee agreed that the upper part of the Ballard Trail should be maintained so that users do not brush against vegetation alongside the trail. Fallen trees constituting "step overs" should be removed at least by winter to facilitate cross country skiing.

State approval has been received for installation of very large stepping stones across Blood Brook as a part of the prospective trail from Main Street to the Dresden playing fields. It is planned to obtain and place these stepping stones this fall. Eventually a 50 foot long, community assembled, rolling barge bridge is planned for that crossing. Federal and state permits will be required before the bridge can be installed.

Jim Faughnan and Doug Hardy have volunteered to do upcoming trail maintenance in the Milton Frye Nature Area.

Four dates were set for upcoming work sessions. On Saturday September 16, participants are to meet in the parking area of the former town pool at 8:00 AM for work on the lower Ballard Trail. On Saturday September 30, a work session is to be held starting at 8:00 AM for maintenance of the Gile Mountain bike trail. Please note that the Gile Mountain Trails continue to be closed for public use, but the Trails Committee is occasionally to be doing work to maintain those trails for whenever they can be reopened. On Saturday October 14 (Oct. 15 is a rain date), the committee is to meet at 8:00 AM in the Turnpike Road parking lot for work in Brookmead with the guidance of Doug Brown and Eric Dole. For Saturday November 4, a work session is planned for the Blue Ribbon Trail. For all work sessions, participants should bring work gloves and drinking water.

Brie Swenson has prepared a Google Doc spread sheet for keeping track of volunteer work hours. Emails with data for inclusion on the spread sheet should be sent to her.

Recent discussions about a supporting organization for a Norwich trails group were reviewed. Either a new 501(c)3 might be formed, or such activities might be conducted under a larger umbrella group. Advantages of a larger group would include availability of accountants, longevity of efforts with turnover of the local population, and availability of insurance for participating landowners and trail workers. A larger group would likely need to receive a portion of funds received through grants or donations. Compilation of a list of needs is underway to facilitate consideration of possible arrangements.

It was suggested that three replacement maps would be good for Parcel 5. Possible modifications of the Parcel 5 trail for skiing were discussed.

The fine work of Gered Dunne and others on the Huntley bike loop was acknowledged.

The committee also expressed gratitude to Byron Haynes for enabling committee members to purchase new Trails Committee t-shirts.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark