

The following revised version of the minutes includes a few points added for clarification.

#### Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee Meeting on July 11, 2018

Present: Doug Brown, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, John McCormick, Gerry Plummer, Brian Riordan, Brie Swenson

Doug Brown reported on Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) plans for the newly acquired Areson property of more than 200 acres. The coming months will be a time for gathering information about that parcel, and the UVLT will encourage public input. Harvesting of trees for saw logs, pulp, and firewood will continue this winter under an ongoing management plan.

The recent collapse of the old bridge on Brown School House Road where it crosses Charles Brown Brook has created a major disruption in the Norwich trails network. The Trails Committee unanimously endorsed expedited planning and construction of a new structure to replace the fallen bridge.

Extended discussion dealt with a proposal for a new trail, which would undoubtedly be popular for mountain biking, to extend along the south side of Beaver Meadow Road between that road and Charles Brown Brook and reaching from near Tucker Hill Road to a point uphill from the former town pool. The Land Management Council has initiated discussions with professionals qualified to plan such a trail. An estimate of cost for a plan was \$2600. If such a trail is feasible, the topography would necessitate major professional work in its construction. It is believed that grant funds could be obtained to support such construction. Work on such a trail would prospectively have two phases, the first concerning the upper half of the trail.

Completion of the Betty Booth Trail is progressing. The next scheduled work session of the Trails Committee is to be on the Betty Booth Trail on August 5. Participants are to meet at 8:00 am by the UVLT sign south and west of the Gateway residences. On-street parking should be available. Participants should bring work gloves, drinking water, loppers, hand saws, and tools for construction of a water bar. Work on this date is to be east of Blood Brook. At another time, another group of volunteers is to complete sections and loops on the other side of the brook.

An award to the Land Management Council from the Norwich Women's Club will enable purchase of materials for major work on three bridges and a bog walkway on the Ballard Trail. Transportation of materials to the trail is to be provided through the Trails Committee. It is anticipated that volunteers arranged by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance will complete the work in the latter part of August or September.

The Land Management Council is hopeful that funds will be available to hire a professional to reset the stones in the long stone stairway on the Ballard Trail so that this can be done in September.

It is anticipated that this year a volunteer group arranged by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance will be constructing an improved treadway in a damp area along the lower part of the Gile Mountain Trail.

A special joint meeting of the Norwich Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee to discuss issues of mutual interest is to held but no date has been set.

It is anticipated that quarterly reports on committee activities will be requested, and there was initial discussion about such reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark