

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for October 3, 2018

Present: George Clark, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Jordan Rowell, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson.  
Susan Brink was present for the early part of the meeting.

Susan Brink from the Planning Commission led a discussion concerning information about trails needed for preparation of a future Town Plan.

In September a bridge on the Ballard Trail was rebuilt using materials moved to the site by members of the Trails Committee and then assembled by Hypertherm volunteers working under the direction of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance.

A nearby wooden staircase on the Ballard Trail will need replacement.

Large stepping stones across Blood Brook have now been installed on the Booth Trail. Work is continuing on other parts of that trail including a spur.

Jordan Rowell reported on the rebuilding of the long stone staircase on the Ballard Trail. The staircase when initially constructed was not on a durable surface but has now been rebuilt by professional trail builders using the same materials but with a durable base. The committee is grateful to the Upper Valley Trail Alliance for having made arrangements for that reconstruction.

The Brownschoolhouse Road crossing of Charles Brown Brook has been excavated on both sides of the brook at the site of the former bridge with a gap of 100 feet separating relatively level terrain on the two sides. Removal of materials on both sides will minimize likelihood of blockage of the brook by debris carried into that site. The gullies on each side of the former bridge site are now too steep for trail users who will cross the brook on stepping stones alongside the former crossing. A new bridge is highly desirable.

The damaged gate at Brookmead has been repaired. A sign uphill from that gate warns descending bikers that there is a gate ahead.

Trees were reported down on more than a half dozen trails, and efforts are planned to clear these trails.

A work session is to be held on Sunday October 7 on the Cossingham Road Farm Trails. Volunteers are to meet at 8 AM in the parking area on Cossingham Road and should bring work gloves and drinking water. Among the projects for that day are repair of a bridge, building up of trails over two culverts, removal of two downed trees, and stone work in two sites.

A work session on Sunday October 21 is to be dedicated to removal of downed trees on other trails. Participants are to meet at 8 AM in the parking lot for the former town pool (lot at the lower end of the Ballard Trail). Work gloves and drinking water will be useful. It is hoped to have three crews at work that day.

Doug Hardy has been communicating with representatives of the Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Green Mountain Club concerning authorized and unauthorized trails passing through the Appalachian Trail Corridor. As efforts move forward to designate authorized future crossings, it will be important to have input from the community. It is therefore planned to solicit such input through notices on listserves and print publications. There is a deadline of February 1, 2019 for submission of a proposal for authorized crossing.

A joint meeting of the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission is scheduled for 6 to 8 PM on Thursday October 18 at the Norwich Inn. It is hoped that a facilitator can be found to lead discussion through a predetermined agenda.

Implications for trails of a possible Fire District merger with the town were briefly discussed.

A workshop on the Emerald Ash Borer is planned from 12 to 2 on Thursday October 25, and it is hoped that trail users will be able to participate.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark