

# Minutes

## Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, August 2, 2023

Norwich Historical Society

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255864325>

### Attendees:

*Norwich Trails Committee (NTC) members present:* David Hubbard and Craig Layne, Cody Williams.

*Volunteers and members of the public:* George Clark, Bob Fiske, Jim Faughnan, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Elisabeth Hammer, Garrett Heaton, Nick Krembs (Zoom), John McCormick, and Sean Ogle (Zoom)

### AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Krembs convened the meeting at 7 pm. Discussion of the Douglas trail extension was added after Item 5.
2. Comments from those present: Hubbard described an unsolicited proposal to widen the trails on Parcel 5 to better facilitate grooming for cross-country skiing. It drew no support from those present. Hubbard reported on the considerations discussed by the group interested in establishing a disc golf course on Fire District land.

### Town interactions

3. Updates from the Conservation Commission: The disposition of remaining end-of-year funds was described. No other substantive updates were offered.

### Infrastructure

4. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported some storm related repairs to the flow trail on Brown Schoolhouse Road. The UVTA has purchased two trail counters, one to replace the unit on the Gile Mountain Trail. Discussion ensued on where to place the second one. It was agreed that a few volunteers would identify a location on Parcel Five or its parking lot and inform Ogle.
5. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned
  - Trees: Faughnan reported clearing two on the Ballard Trail and five on the Brookmead system.
  - Address Ballard Trail: The July rains caused the brook to change channels and a major landslip affecting approximately 300 feet of trail, rendering it impassible. The landslip resulted from saturated clay failing to hold the slope in place. After some discussion, it was agreed that some volunteers would flag a potential relocation for the trail. Flanders offered to have a geotechnical engineer friend give an informal assessment of options for that section. A relocation will require coordination with the landowner of that trail segment.
  - Douglas Road trail extension: July rains created a gully where a culvert previously allowed water to cross under this forth-class road. Faughnan reported that neighbors were interested in installing a self-funded bridge. Faughnan and other interested trails volunteers will advise and support this project.
6. Trail projects for 2023

- Ballard Trail—The repair of a bog bridge and a short relocation of compromised trail were accomplished on July 23 with volunteers led by Faughnan and McCormick.
  - Blue Ribbon Trail—Completion of blazing is expected in August.
  - Woody Adams Parcel—Kiosk signs are in place. Completion of trail work with addition of stepping stones in muddy areas and across minor water crossings is scheduled for August 20th.
  - The “Kids Bridge”, proposed to span the brook between the American Legion and Huntley meadow is awaiting funding from public donations. Trails volunteers are expected to participate in its erection.
7. Update on kiosks and trails signage
- Burton Woods at Bragg Hill Road: This kiosk will be sited in coordination with the nearby landowner, who has provided parking for users of the trail.
  - Heyl Trail at Elm Street and Bragg Hill Road: Kiosks have been placed at both ends of the trail with signs.
  - Powers Trail: Kiosk awaits the installation of a chain barrier by the Department of Public Works.

### **Financial**

8. Plan for funding in Trails line item in Conservation Commission budget
- Identify items for upcoming budget season: The selectboard discussion of the budget will commence in the fall. Faughnan identified the need for two bridge replacements requiring \$1,000 in materials each. He will compile further needs for upcoming consideration.

### **Other**

9. Webpage update:
- Edited map images to erase an unwanted trail vestige: Doug Hardy received a request to delete an unauthorized trail segment from the maps on the Norwich Trail website. Hardy revised the graphics and Flanders placed them on the website.
10. Scribe successorship: This topic can be delayed until 2024.
- 11. Adjourn:** Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.