

Notes

Trails Volunteers Discussion Notes

7 pm, March 6, 2024

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

Nick Krembs, Bob Fiskens, Gerry Plumber, Jim Faughnan, Craig Layne, Aiden Powell, Sean Ogle, George Clark

Initial Comments

Aiden presented his Boy Scout Troop 253 interest in volunteering for trail projects. Perhaps even as an eagle scout project. Perhaps bridge design and work, maybe on the Hazen, Ballard, and/or Gile Trails. Or perhaps a trail blazing project. He will stay in touch with the Trails Volunteers about Spring opportunities. The collaboration was supported by all.

Updates from the Conservation Commission (CC) and Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA)

Craig reported that the Town Manager has been informed about the Spring work to be done in the old jeep road trail bed of the Bradley Hill Trail, namely, removal of downed wood, drainage/water bars, and benching of the trail bed. Sean reported that the UVTA has gotten a quote of ~\$1,7k for the rental cost of the required small excavator for 1 week. The CC budget line item, Trails, will reimburse the UVTA expense.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Jim reported a large pine down on the Blue Ribbon Trail. It will be removed when the ground dries and it can be accessed from the Chapel Hill Rd side of the ridgeline.

Gile Mountain fire tower

Bob and Jim reported on the visit by them, Cody Williams, and a tower expert from the VT Parks Department to the tower to discuss replacement of wearing stair treads. The 2x12x22-24 in. treads will need replacing with white oak from the top down. Jim is exploring the sourcing of the wood and bolts. Jim and Bob have the expertise and experience to do the replacements during a series of two-day tower closures. They will

require assistance from a crew transporting materials up to the tower. Funding can be a combination of grant, CC budget, and UVTA sourcing.

Other trail projects for 2024

The Gile Trail hemlock bridge and the Ballard Trail relocation/repair were discussed. There will be a Ballard trail-collapse site visit when the trail dries. It will require steep-section stoning, graveling over slippery clay on the trail, and wooden drainage-crossing structures.

Seasonal trail communications at trailheads

Craig asked about there being a repository of files for seasonal trail informational signage as well as for the already printed and laminated kiosk signs (e.g., mud season, hunting season, winter trail use, etc.). He was reminded that the seasonal signs rotate between the front and the back of the kiosks as display and storage, respectively. Developing a more general version of a mud season trail etiquette sign was suggested and will be considered.

Website updates

Gerry reported Cody Williams now has all the access needed to upload Meeting Minutes and Agenda. This also gives him the rights to create and update pages.

Final comments

Jim and Bob reported that there will be follow-up, April-May work on the Kid's Bridge, namely, 30-foot access ramps.

Notes submitted by C. Layne