

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for February 3, 2016

Present: Jason Berard, Lars Blackmore, George Clark, Kristin Fauci, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Jane Lemasurier, Steve Loughman, Rebecca Matteo, John and Jane Phipps and family, Cathy Redpath, Brian Riordan, Tim Tierney, and two others.

At this meeting Tim Tierney, Executive Director of Kingdom Trails in East Burke, VT, provided a overview of that popular and highly successful trail network and answered questions with reference to possibilities for the future of trails in Norwich.

Among points emphasized were the widespread involvement of community members in promoting and using the Kingdom Trails which are open throughout the year except for a month at hunting season. Major activities on those trails include running, Nordic skiing, and mountain biking with the season for the latter extending through the winter.

Great emphasis is placed on maintaining communication with about 60 landowners who are contacted at least three times per year. Almost all the Kingdom Trails are made available through informal agreements with the landowners. A large number of trail-work volunteers, particularly mountain bikers, enable relatively quick adjustments in the trail routes to meet changing needs of landowners. A continuing effort is made to educate trail users about best practices so as to maintain good relations with the landowners. Arrangements are made so that different kinds of users can be accommodated, e.g., different routes for bikers and skiers in winter.

At Kingdom Trails, attention has been given to having trails which are family friendly as well as more challenging routes. Having trails of varied difficulty originate from a central location has enhanced the appeal of that trail network, and such an arrangement might be feasible in Norwich.

Members of the committee expressed their gratitude to Tim Tierney for his fine presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark