

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for September 2, 2015

Present: Rob Bushell, George Clark, Chris Coughlin, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, Steve Liu, Liz Russell

In two recent work sessions on the Gile Mountain Trail, Belgian horses Bert and Mike have helped to move rocks well uphill in a highly successful effort. This work is to be continued on Tuesday September 8 starting at 8 AM. This work has eliminated the need to use the grip hoist in this effort.

During recent weeks the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) arranged for two crews, one from Tuck and the other a youth group, to work on the Gile Mountain Trail. Much has been accomplished, and the Trails Committee is very appreciative of the assistance provided by these crews.

Piles of smaller grain materials remain in the power line right of way to be hauled uphill for use in both the upper and closer parts of the Gile Mountain Trail.

Work sessions by the Trails Committee on the Gile Mountain Trail are scheduled for September 13 and 27. Participants are to meet at 8:00 AM in the Gile Mountain Trail parking lot and are requested to bring work gloves, drinking water, and snacks if desired. Tools will be provided.

Records are being kept of volunteer time in work on the Gile Mountain Trail for use in connection with matching effort in grants. Peter Griggs is to be emailing record sheets to Nick Krembs.

A group recently walked in the area of a potential trail connection between the main trail of Parcel 5 and an existing trail on the recently conserved Norwich Farms. There is general agreement that only one trail should link these two parcels. Some work will be needed to improve this trail linkage for regular use.

On the Turnpike Road side of Norwich Farms, signage and other arrangements for trail users are not yet complete. The Upper Valley Land Trust is seeking additional funds to cover the full cost for the purchase of that parcel.

Investigations are underway at Norwich Farms to determine whether rerouting a trail away from one of the vernal pools would be desirable.

For a work session on November 1 at Cossingham Road Farm Trails, improvements on a stream crossing and a reroute of a short cut trail are planned. In the meantime, Byron Haynes is to meet with Liz Russell to consider details for that work session.

Byron Haynes reported that the Interim Director of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) was very complimentary about the experience of the recent crew which worked on the Ballard Trail. It is recommended that, for future barbecues for VYCC crews, a more advanced notice be provided so as to enable a greater community involvement.

It had been suggested that funds for the Trails Committee should be included in the Conservation Commission budget. An annual amount of \$2500 was proposed. Among the costs for Trails Committee work are kiosk and bridge repairs, tool rental, materials such as stone, and payments for skilled professional trail construction done by the UVTA staff.

The Blue Ribbon Trail remains closed. There are problems of erosion and fallen trees along the southern part of that trail where still open to the public but presently not much used. For the Blue Ribbon Trail, renewal of contacts with private land owners is planned.

Doug Hardy is arranging an email system for reporting trail blockages such as by fallen trees. There are to be four recipients for messages placed on the system: Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, and Nick Krembs.

It was noted that certain parcels within Norwich require formal certification for users of chainsaws on those properties.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark