

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for September 3, 2014

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Jesse Frank, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Liz Russell

Possible modifications in the area of the 85 foot long stairway containing 46 stone steps on the Ballard Trail were discussed, including 1) possible slight realignments of a small number of the steps and 2) possible reestablishment a rope "railing" along edge of the stairway as an assist for hikers. Several members of the committee are soon to inspect the stairway area to provide more specific recommendations.

Recent mowing to a width of about 48 inches along the Cossingham Road Farm Trails has left generally good conditions for hikers, but a wider mowing will be needed to prepare for the cross country ski season.

Also, repair is needed on stone work at one water crossing, and a major bridge needs repairs. The committee plans to conduct a work session at the Cossingham Road Farm Trails on Saturday October 25.

On the Ballard Trail above the Grand Canyon, 1) two bridges need repair, 2) numerous fallen trees need to be cut and removed from the tread way along the Converse Loop, and 3) improvements are needed in the stone work at the water crossing at the lower end of the canyon.

Two areas for potential improvement along the Blue Ribbon Trail were discussed. One damp section needs attention as does a relatively long and straight stretch along which water flows after rain storms.

At Gile Mountain, consideration is being given to the possibilities for an improved route for the lower portion of the mountain bike trail in the vicinity of the power line crossing. Upper Valley mountain bikers are enthused about the opportunities provided on the Norwich trails and as in the past will be pleased to assist in improving the trails.

The next work session of the committee will be concerned with the Ballard Trail. Participants are to meet in the Norwich town pool parking lot off Beaver Meadow Road at 8:00 AM on Saturday September 13. Participants should bring work gloves and drinking water.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark