

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for December 7, 2016

Present: George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, Amos Kornfeld, Nick Krembs, Craig Layne, Liz Russell

Waterbars and ditches along the Gile Mountain Trail were cleared in a committee work session on November 13. A recent snowstorm bent numerous saplings along the lower part of that trail, but that section was subsequently cleared by a committee member.

In November, committee members replaced two broken floor pieces on one of the Ballard Trail bridges.

Potential rerouting along the southern end of the Blue Ribbon Trail has been flagged, and Land Management Committee approval is to be requested for the proposed change in route. A planned leaf blowing along the Blue Ribbon Trail was not completed during the originally scheduled time.

Craig Layne from the Conservation Commission led a discussion about trails, wildlife, and related issues. Finding the best routes for trails can be greatly assisted by having data specific for the locality. Where such data are unavailable, general principles, such as avoiding wetlands, can help.

Discussions on this general topic will be continuing.

It is anticipated that the next meeting of this committee, on January 4, 2017, will include a discussion with town officials concerning the Gile Mountain Trail including problems that have been associated with mud season in the vicinity of that trail.

The Upper Valley Land Trust has approved the placement of specific Trails Committee signage on the kiosk at the Brookmead Conservation Area.

It was reported that tree blockages are currently present in two locations on the Cossingham Road Farm Trails and three locations on the Blue Ribbon Trail.

A subcommittee is being formed to conduct field evaluations of possible trail routes where landowner approvals have been given for new routes.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark