

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for October 4, 2017

Present: Doug Brown, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Pete Griggs, Nick Krembs, Brian Livingston, Cathie Redpath, Brie Swenson

In a September 16 work session, members of the committee worked on a set of stone steps on the lower Ballard Trail.

In a September 30 work session, a crew including members of the committee rerouted part of the bike trail on Gile Mountain above the power line. Additional work remains to be done on upper parts of the bike trail up to the Blue Ribbon Trail.

Please note that the Gile Mountain trails continue to remain closed for recreational use until further notice. Turnpike Road remains closed for all except local residents.

The signage subcommittee is to meet at 6:30 PM on Thursday October 12 at the Norwich Inn.

A work session is to be held at Brookmead from 8 AM to noon on October 15 (not 14 as previously stated). Participants are to meet at the Turnpike Road parking lot and should bring work gloves, buckets, and shovels. Objectives will be trail turnpike construction and, if time allows, relocating a trail sign.

Brie Swenson will maintain the Google Doc spreadsheets listing volunteer work hours including dates, trail serviced, names of participants, and numbers of hours of work. Participants should email such information to her.

On November 4, after the next committee meeting, a work session is to be held to improve a section of the Blue Ribbon Trail.

No new trail is now planned around the nature area shelter, but adjustments have been made on the yellow trail. David Hobson of the Conservation Commission has volunteered to produce a new map for the nature area showing current trails.

Brie Swenson briefly summarized plans for proposed construction of the Main Street trail for which authorizations are already in place. Some six grade students from Marion Cross School are to help in brush clearing for that trail.

Planning is underway for a winter fund-raiser to be arranged by the Trails Committee and Recreation Council to fund two bridges planned for Blood Brook. Such bridges will require federal and state permits as well as the local authorizations.

The committee reviewed discussions held at the Selectboard meeting of September 27. Five members of the Trails Committee attended. Content from that meeting is publicly available in three pages in the Selectboard packet for that meeting on the town website and in the online CATV video presenting the full discussion of that Selectboard meeting. Among many items briefly reviewed in discussion by the Trails Committee were connectivity of core trails, defining trail use, trail etiquette, signage and maps, considerations of parking, legal status of trails, various possible changes in policy, and a potential mission statement from the Trails Committee. The committee will initiate preparation of a mission statement intended for review by the Town Manager and the Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark