

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for April 4, 2018

Present: George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Byron Haynes, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

As part of preparing a new map of town trails, a list of landowners to be contacted has been assembled, and initial contacts have been made with some of those landowners.

Representatives of trail groups from a number of Upper Valley towns participated in an April 3rd meeting arranged by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA). Jim Faughnan, Gerry Plummer, and Brie Swenson represented the Norwich Trails Committee. The UVTA proposes, if interest by Upper Valley residents is sufficient, to hold training meetings on trail-related topics such as mapping, chain saw use, and techniques for first responders. During that UVTA meeting, substantial interest was shown in involving children in trail activities.

As determined by the committee, town trails are now closed for mud season through the end of April unless otherwise announced at a later time. Among trails closed for mud season are the Ballard, Betty Booth, Blue Ribbon, Cossingham Road Farm Trails, Hazen, Heyl, Milton Frye Nature Area, and Parcel 5. The Gile Mountain Trail remains closed, and the time of its reopening has yet to be determined. In general, the committee asks that trail users take care to avoid damaging trails. A number of Class IV and other roads remain available for hiking or biking during mud season.

A trail blockage was reported from the Hazen Trail.

On Saturday April 28, the committee is to conduct a trail inspection together with possible minor trail work along the Heyl Trail. Participants are to meet at 9 AM at the Elm Street trailhead; parking is available nearby. Bring drinking water, work gloves, and appropriate tools.

Plans for a connector trail between the Norwich Child Center and the Hazen Trail are to be discussed at the June meeting of this committee.

A connector trail is to replace that now linking St. Barnabas Church property and the Milton Frye Nature Area. It is hoped that students from the school will be able to participate in building a replacement bridge as a part of that trail.

Plans are moving ahead for installation of stepping stones across Blood Brook as a part of the Betty Booth Trail.

David Hubbard is to meet with trail designers to consider possibilities for a multi-use trail to include mountain biking over a route roughly parallel to a lower section of the Ballard

Trail but on the opposite side of Charles Brown Brook. Byron Haynes is to be informally meeting with a civil engineer concerning potential for a trail bridge crossing that brook.

David Hubbard led a discussion about potential funding sources and estimated cost for replacing worn bridges along the Ballard Trail. If funding is obtained, the committee intends to complete that work during 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

George Clark