

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for June 6, 2018

Present: James Allen, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, Doug Hardy, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer, Brian Riordan, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

In a work session on May 20, durable new trail markers were placed along the lower portion of the Blue Ribbon Trail. Work was also done that day on the Gile Mountain bike route.

Plans are moving ahead for correction of drainage problems in the northern part of the Betty Booth Trail and on the placement of stepping stones across Blood Brook. Uncertainties about easements have been favorably resolved.

A new proposal for a network of trails on a parcel in the southwestern part of Norwich is anticipated, but details are not yet available.

The next work session is to be held on June 24. Participants are to meet at 8:00 AM in the Gile Mountain Trail parking lot. Potential activities include treadway work, rebuilding a collapsed embankment, and clearing a clogged culvert. Peter Griggs and Nick Krembs are to be doing further planning before that work session. Participants in the work session should bring work gloves and drinking water.

A proposed new trail crossing several parcels in an area south of Bragg Hill Road was discussed. Craig Layne of the Conservation Commission is to be consulted about wildlife in that area.

A committee work session has been scheduled for August 5 with details to be determined.

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance is planning to reconstruct the major stone stairway on the lower part of the Ballard Trail.

A meeting was held on May 16 to discuss the Appalachian Trail Corridor in Norwich, where the number of unauthorized trails within the corridor notably exceeds that in other towns of this region. As a part of maintaining the Appalachian Trail and the experience for hikers, an elimination of unauthorized trails is sought. To this end, the Trails Committee intends to prepare a proposal for addition of one bike crossing to be authorized in addition to existing authorized crossings. It is anticipated that Jane Lemasurier, Gered Dunne, and possibly others will work with Nick Krembs on that proposal.

A forwarded proposal for services from Trail Hub received no support in the committee.

The Blue Ribbon Trail was discussed. Extension of that trail in recent years has made it primarily a bike route. If as seems potentially possible, the route of the original trail should again become available, the committee would favor retaining both the present extended route and the original route which served as a multiuse trail.

The Gile Mountain Trail, the status of which was briefly discussed at this meeting, will likely be a continuing topic for discussions by the committee.

The next meeting of the Trails Committee was set for 7 PM on Wednesday July 11 in view of the Independence Day Holiday on July 4.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark