

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for August 1, 2018

Present: George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Alicia Groft, Doug Hardy, David Hubbard, Brian Jones, Nick Krembs, Todd MacKenzie, Jim McNamara, Gerry Plummer, Brian Riordan, Liz Russell, Brian Shiner, Brie Swenson

Trees or limbs were reported down on several trails including the King Arthur, Blue Ribbon, Blue Ribbon Connector, Parcel 5, Ballard, and Appalachian Trails. Plans were discussed for arranging to have these blockages cleared, either by the Trails Committee or by others where appropriate.

As previously announced, the Trails Committee is holding a work session on Sunday August 5 on the Betty Booth Trail. Participants are to meet at 8:00 am by the UVLT sign south and west of the Gateway residences. On-street parking should be available. Participants should bring work gloves, drinking water, loppers, hand saws. and tools for construction of a water bar.

Brie Swenson reported that another group of volunteers is to be working on other parts of the Betty Booth Trail on Saturday September 29.

On Friday August 3, a volunteer group organized by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance is to be working on rebuilding a bridge the upper part of the Ballard Trail.

Future work sessions of the Trails Committee, after August 5 as discussed above, are to be on the third Sunday of each month, i.e., August 19, September 16, and October 21. In November, however, a work session is to be held on Sunday November 11.

The work session on August 19 is to be on the new reroute section of the Blue Ribbon Trail. At least one landowner needs to be contacted before that work session to provide an alert about the planned activity. Much of the work to be done involves clearing vegetation along the trail. Look for a later email announcement concerning details of time and meeting site for this August 19 work session.

It is anticipated that the agenda for the next meeting of this committee will include a discussion concerning trail mapping.

There was strong enthusiasm in the committee for improving the trail from Bragg Hill Road to Parcel 5 along the Brown School House Road corridor.

There was a lengthy discussion about possibilities for a future multiuse trail, either replacing or supplementing the Ballard Trail, along Charles Brown Brook. Indications now are that it will not be possible to construct such a trail along the brook between the brook and Beaver Meadow Road. Although no conclusions were reached at this meeting, conceivable arrangements for such a multiuse trail will continue to be of major interest in planning for Norwich trails.

The Conservation Commission and Trails Committee are to hold a join meeting at an as yet undetermined date and location. A proposed agenda for that meeting was reviewed.

No decisions about recommendations for any changes in authorization of trail crossings of the Appalachian Trail Corridor are anticipated before spring of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark