

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for November 7, 2018

Present: George Clark, Kristin Close, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskien, Steve Flanders, Eric Friets, Doug Hardy, David Hubbard, Nick Krembs, Allison MacCormick, Betsy Maislen, Katie Mann, John McCormick, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Brian Riordan, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

Katie Mann from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy outlined plans for production of a small but informative map showing a few selected trails recommended for visitors in the Appalachian Trail Communities of Norwich and Hanover. An example of such a map was shown for the town of Monson, Maine. A goal of such maps is to inform visitors, including families, of the natural treasures to be encountered on trails with a long range view of encouraging future stewardship. There was a lively discussion at the meeting as to which few trails from Norwich should be shown on the map, and a short list of such trails is to be presented at the December 5th meeting of the committee. It was agreed that Gile Mountain Trail will not be on the short list.

Doug Hardy led a discussion about authorized and unauthorized trails in the Appalachian Trail Corridor. A subcommittee is to meet on the evening of Wednesday November 14 at a location to be determined to discuss this topic and plan further action. Anticipated members of that subcommittee are Steve Flanders, Doug Hardy, Nick Krembs, Cathie Redpath, Liz Russell, and either Brian Riordan or Gered Dunne.

Brie Swenson reported that 6th grade students at Marion Cross School held a two day bake sale, unbeknownst at the time to any members of this committee, and raised a remarkable \$341 which they then generously contributed towards the eventual construction of a bridge across Blood Brook as a part of the Betty Booth Trail.

Jim Faughnan reported on two productive work session days in October: 1) blowdowns were cleared on the Ballard Trail and along the reroute of the Blue Ribbon Trail; 2) drainage was improved on the Gile Mountain Trail; 3) a new bridge was built in the Cossingham Road Farm Trails.

There is to be no designated work session day in November.

David Hubbard pointed out that remaining grant funds are available for work on the Ballard Trail in the early spring. Estimates of cost of materials will be needed.

In preparation for the next joint meeting of the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission, Brian Riordan will provide a trail map to be printed by Brie Swenson. Sensitive areas can then be designated for that map by members of the Conservation Commission.

Jim Faughnan, summarizing in part from counter data on the Gile Mountain Trail as compiled by Sean Ogle of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, noted the popularity of that trail particularly in September and early October. Numerous vehicles were ticketed for illegal parking along Turnpike Road this fall. Some neighbors have indicated to the committee that they would support an expansion of the parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark