

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for February 6, 2019

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, David Hubbard, Don McCabe, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Brian Riordan

Don McCabe led an extended discussion and answered questions related to Article 36 which was recently unanimously approved by the Selectboard for inclusion on the town ballot of March 5. This article would authorize use of \$50,000 from a Conservation Commission Designated Fund for initial work in creating a commuter trail network for walkers and bikers in Norwich. It was agreed that such a network would be advantageous in 1) potentially enabling substantial reduction in use of fossil fuels for transportation and 2) notably expanded opportunities for healthful recreation. Don McCabe is to provide the Trails Committee with more detailed information which is to be distributed to those on the committee email list. A major effort to inform voters about this Article is planned.

A large downed tree on the Gile Mountain Trail was recently cleared.

Winter logging now underway on Fire District lands along the Connector Trail between Brookmead and the Blue Ribbon Trail is to be completed by early spring and that trail then subsequently repaired.

Eric Dole's fine work in trail grooming on Parcel 5 was highly praised.

Jim Faughnan has been collecting information applicable for a replacement of the collapsed Brownschoolhouse Road bridge.

Using funds donated to the Recreation Department, the town is to be purchasing an off road vehicle for use, in part, in grooming the Huntley Meadow trails.

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance is planning to undertake a few days of trail work in Norwich later this year, with the particular sites yet to be designated.

David Hubbard is collecting information about a large suspension bridge on a trail over the LaPlatte River.

Special thanks go to Cathie Redpath for her service, now completed, as acting scribe for this committee. It is no longer necessary to send duplicate copies of communications for this committee to her.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark