

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for December 4, 2019

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskén, Steve Flanders, Nick Krembs, John McCormick, Elena Mihaly, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath

New content has been added to the Trails Committee section in the Town of Norwich website including a few maps, guidelines for group use of Norwich trails, protocol for trail development, information on the proposed bridge replacement near Parcel 5, and useful materials from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance including specifications for numerous trails. For more details, see <http://norwich.vt.us/trails-committee/>

On November 17, the committee held a work session on the southern end of the Bradley Hill Trail with extensive cutting of fallen trees, thus clearing the right-of-way along that part of the trail. Also in November, committee members cleared fallen trees along parts of the Blue Ribbon Trail. Trail clearing has also been recently conducted along the Ballard Trail and Parcel 5.

The committee acknowledged with gratitude the continuing fine work of Bob Fiskén in facilitating critical connections through major portions of the Norwich trail network.

A proposed budget for the town includes funds for a previously discussed expansion of the parking lot by the trailhead for the Gile Mountain Trail.

On November 26, Sherry Winnie, Grants Management Specialist for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, conducted a site visit, together with a few members of this committee, to view the setting for the proposed bridge to replace the collapsed bridge on Brown School House Road over Charles Brown Brook.

The committee greatly appreciates the input received during November from numerous trail users concerning the desirability of replacing that collapsed bridge over Charles Brown Brook. The grant proposal including that input is to be submitted later this month.

Also very important in guiding planning by the committee for fund raising for the collapsed bridge will be suggestions received from Bob Holley.

The committee discussed potential ways to publicize the bridge project including online and print media, post card mailing, and displays placed to receive public attention. During December, the committee is to move forward with some online publicity. The topic of publicity for the bridge project is to be further discussed at the January meeting.

Gerry Plummer reported that planning is continuing for the forthcoming Trails Committee website.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO BE AT 7 PM ON THURSDAY JANUARY 9TH AT THE NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark