

## Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for February 5, 2020

Present: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiske, Steve Flanders, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, John McCormick, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Liz Russell, Brie Swenson

There have been no recent communications from the National Forest Service about a proposal concerned with trail crossings in the Appalachian Trail Corridor in Norwich.

Funds to cover a proposed expansion of the Gile Mountain Trail parking lot were removed from the town budget for the coming fiscal year by action of the Selectboard.

The committee expressed its appreciation to Gerry Plummer for his major role in setting up the new website which can be seen at <<https://norwichtrails.org>>. A backup administrator is still to be designated for the site. Steve Flanders volunteered to help with the site.

Additional photographs are being sought. Brie Swenson and Sean Ogle offered to provide photographs. Trail maps are needed for the Milton Frye Nature Area and the Betty Booth Trail. It is planned to include topographic information and special sights to be seen along town trails in the website descriptions of those trails.

Steve Flanders has done major work in preparing content for planned listserv announcements and for public displays and posters about the bridge replacement and about the new "Discover Norwich Trails" project.

"Discover Norwich Trails" is to be launched with initial hikes for the public on the Saturdays of February 22 and 29. The hike on the latter date will be one of the events on a day of numerous winter recreational activities being arranged by the Recreation Department. Availability of the hikes will be announced to town residents partly through online messages via the town listserv and the Trails Committee website. Prospective participants in these hikes will be asked to call leaders in advance to confirm that skill levels and winter gear are appropriate. Additional members of the Trails Committee who would like to colead these hikes should contact Nick Krembs. It is anticipated that the committee will continue to offer one or two hikes per month for residents with a gap in the series during mud season.

Public presentation of materials concerning the Brown School House bridge replacement project is planned in February at two locations visited by numerous town residents. Trails Committee members attending this meeting volunteered for two hour time slots to meet with the public. Anyone on the Trails Committee and not attending this meeting can sign up for a time slot by contacting Nick Krembs. The grant application for state funding to help in replacing the bridge is reported to be under review during the next several weeks but the date of announcement of a decision is unknown.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark