



# Agenda

## Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, April 7, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81843241733><sup>1</sup>

### AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda
2. Comments from those present
3. Report on fund balances available for trails

### Trail infrastructure

4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned
5. Planning scope of work on Lower Ballard Trail—Identify:
  - a. Scope of work for 2021
  - b. Scope of work for 2022
6. Trail information standards: Working group report
7. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge and Happy Hill parking areas: Liaison with town management, regarding configurations and signage?
  - a. Proposed improvements of parking areas
  - b. Choose liaison

### Trail use

8. Gile Mountain Trail parking update

### Financial

9. Benches for the Brown Schoolhouse Bridge and Ballard Trail
10. Clarification of purchasing procedures
11. 2021 grants: funding signage and work at on the Ballard Trail.
12. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking

### Other

13. Items for May meeting
  - a. Grant proposal: Trail information
  - b. Proposed 2021 trail work projects
    - Lower Ballard side-hill and gully crossings: Reconnaissance report.
    - Upper Ballard bank and gully crossings: Reconnaissance report.
  - c. Organizing for the “Kids’ Bridge”.
14. Items for future meetings
  - a. Developing a trails master plan, as required by the 2020 Norwich Town Plan.

### 15. Adjourn

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<sup>1</sup> For dial-in information and assistance, see next page.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81843241733>

**Dial-in Information:**

Meeting ID: 818 4324 1733

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81843241733# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,81843241733# US (New York)

**Contact for assistance:**

Nick Krembs (802) 649-1048

**Calendar reminders:**

You are welcome to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUlc-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUlc-qqqjotGdfV9OwiW8dA4WZTEP9_Ypof/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGppi8pGNCUtxqERpwcGo-gb-rwiH5ajadbqkbKFCIkOgfXYtV4BpdPSefp)

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## Discussion material for agenda items:

### 5. Planning contract work on Lower Ballard Trail—Identify:

- a. Scope of work for 2021: Repair first 1000' from Ballard Park
  - Contract work: Add fill to improve treadway; \$800 quote
  - Funding: Reapply for Women's Club grant; gift Pledge \$1000, if needed.
- b. Scope of work for 2022: Restoration Upgrade from Ballard Park to power line ROW  
In 2021:
  - Consult with potential trail-builder contractors, regarding costs and specifications.
  - Form group of local stakeholders to decide feasibility and plan progress.
  - Obtain trail corridor guarantee from private landowner(s)In 2022:
  - Acquire funding.
  - Bid out work.
  - Complete construction

### 7. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge and Happy Hill parking areas: Liaison with DPW, regarding configurations and signage?

- **Brown Schoolhouse Bridge:**

At some point in the next few months DPW will presumably begin work on this project. If the Trails Committee will be allowed to offer suggestions, the results might be more favorable for trail users.

Among the potential concerns for this project are a) preventing cars and trucks from running off the entry road or the parking area, b) protecting the bridge from damage by runaway vehicles, c) possible barriers to deter winter/mud season driving on the access road, and d) signage.

In past discussions, the Trails Committee has favored use of boulders around the parking area rather than metal guard rails which have often been used in road projects.
- **Happy Hill:**

Perhaps signage will clarify the limits of the turn-around area to avoid potential violations.

### 12. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking

Recommend town budget inclusion from the selectboard under a new Public Works line item for "Trailhead parking", as follows:

- Gile Mountain parking lot expansion, subject to a FY 2020-21 scoping study.



Area for expansion of the Gile Mountain parking lot

- Elm Street parking improvements, as follows: Utility ROW (subject to coordination with neighbors), augmented shoulder parking, and augmented shoulder spillover parking on Hickory Ridge Road.



Area for expansion of Elm Street parking

- Happy Hill Road installation of parking beyond power pole on south side to avoid conflict with turn-around. Existing parking would receive a sign, defining the area reserved for turn-around.



Area for expansion of Happy Hill parking lot

- Two-vehicle off-road parking at Burton Woods Trail.



Area for a Burton Woods Road parking lot

13. a. Grant proposal: Trail information:

**Summary**

The Norwich Trails Committee has budgeted for the construction and installation of trailhead kiosks in the “Trails” line item of the adopted 2021-22 Norwich town budget. Additionally, the NTC has recommended guidelines for kiosk information content, together with signage and trail markings elsewhere in the Norwich Trails system. This is to request \$800 (\$650 for 10 kiosk signs, plus \$100 for 20+ trail signs, plus \$50 for four posts) to fund the implementation of these guidelines in under-served locations, as follows:

## Kiosks

The concept is to have two formats of kiosk: 3 x 3 feet at off-road parking areas (Figure 1) and 2 x 3 feet at road-side parking areas.

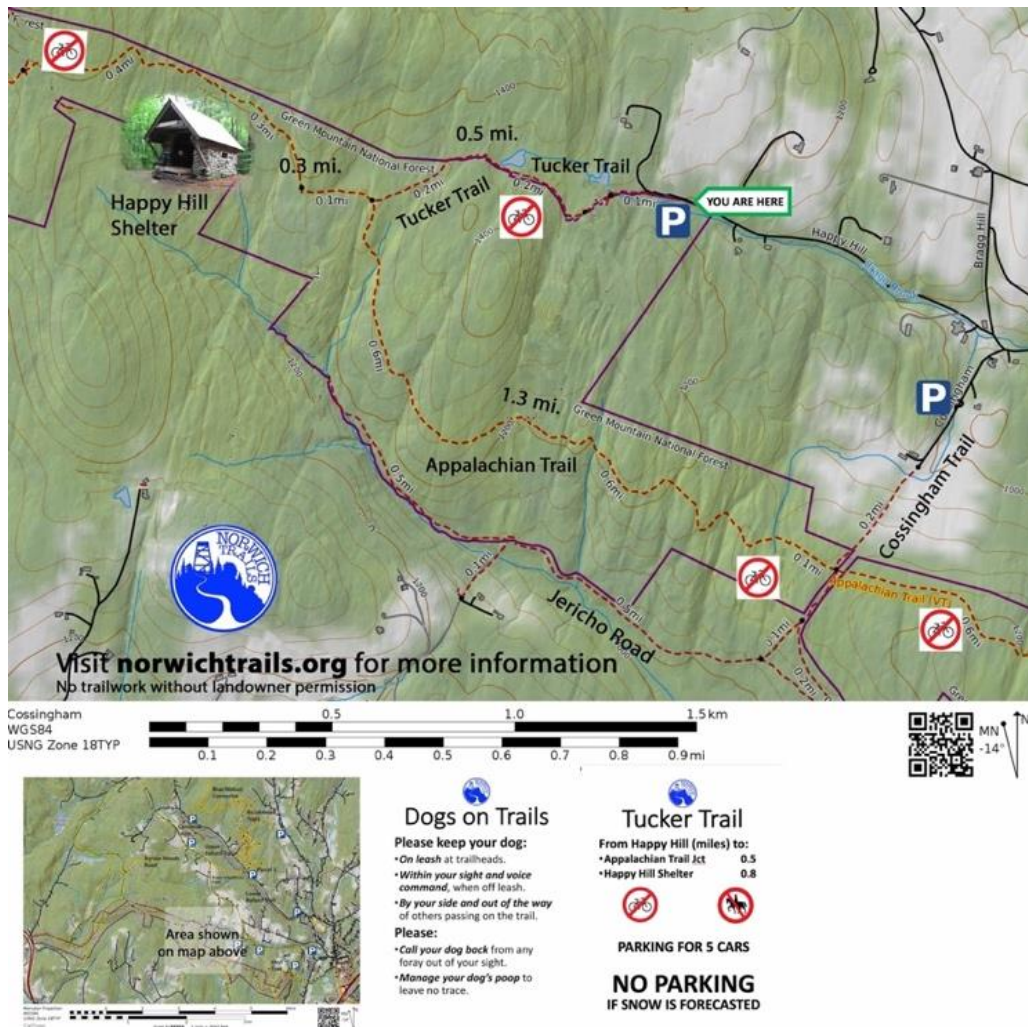


Figure A1. Sample information content for large kiosks (subject to approval by location)

The request is to fund durable, one-piece signs for kiosks at the following locations:

- Parcel 5
- Gile Mountain
- Ballard Park
- Brown Schoolhouse Bridge
- Upper Ballard Trailhead
- Happy Hill
- Cossingham Trail
- Burton Woods Trail
- Brown Schoolhouse Trail (small on Bragg Hill Road)
- Blue Ribbon Trail (small)

- Bradley Hill Trail (small)
- Heyl Trail (small at Elm)
- Heyl Trail (small on Bragg Hill Road)

Some of these kiosks have cluttered, outdated content. This proposal budgets \$50 for a corrugated (yard-sign-like), full-color display, chosen in preference to \$90 for polystyrene. Accordingly, kiosk signs at the above locations would range between \$650 and \$1,270.

The design, location, and placement of each sign would be subject to approval by the Norwich Town Manager, Norwich Prudential Committee or private landowner, depending on location. Such signs fall under the Norwich Zoning Ordinance category of “Exempted Signs” as “Non-advertising signs placed for directional, safety or public service purposes”.

### **Trail signs**

The Norwich Trails Committee has identified 21 intersections (Figures 2-4) in the trail network that are under-served by directional signs to ensure travelers know where they are and how to get where they would like to go while along a trail.

Signs should be available at junctions to list the connecting trails, an arrow with their directions, and the distance to the next junction along each trail. Distances should always be posted in miles.

Such signs will be made of 1.5” thick pressure-treated wood with carved lettering. Painting the lettering makes the lettering more visible but requires regular upkeep, therefore lettering should be painted at trailheads but unpainted elsewhere. Lettering should feature 2.5” cap height lettering for major text (e.g. connecting trail names) and 1.5” cap height for all else (e.g. mileage).

The costs of materials for the proposed signs, which would be fabricated by volunteers would be calculated, as follows:

- Typical sign 18-inch 2 x 8
- 2 x 8 x 12-foot pressure-treated board costs \$32 and yields eight signs.
- 20+ signs are needed: 3 boards @ \$32 = \$96.
- 4: 4 x 4 x 6-foot pressure-treated posts costs \$48 and yields four posts.

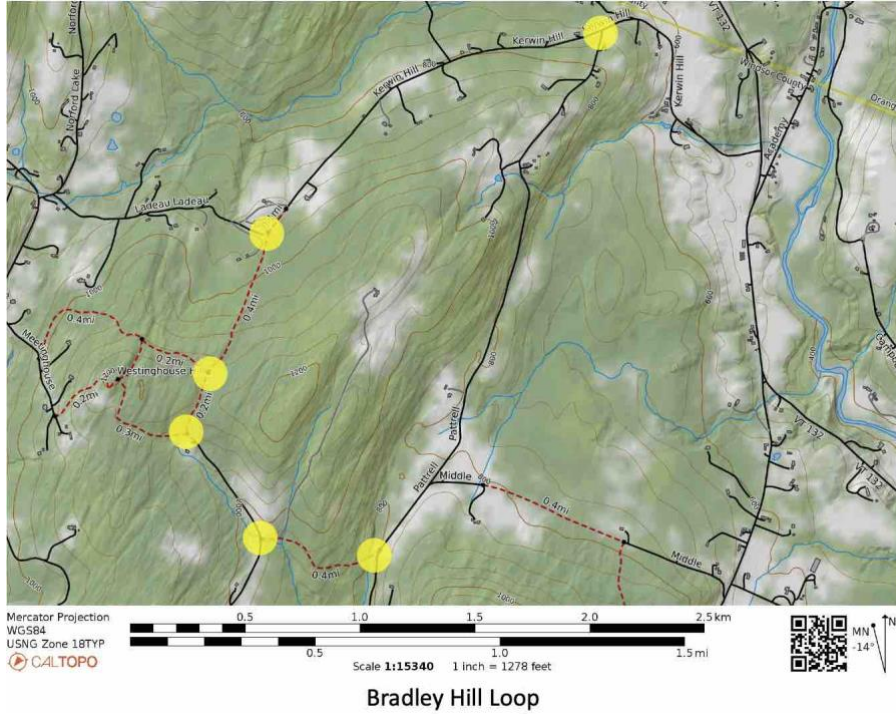


Figure A2. Under-served locations for signs in the Bradley Hill area.

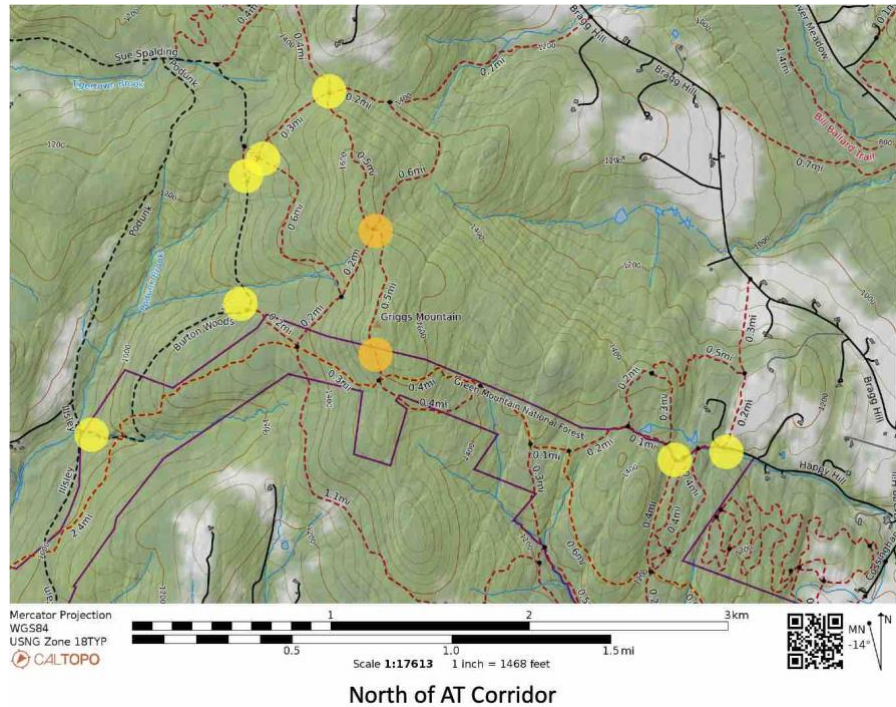
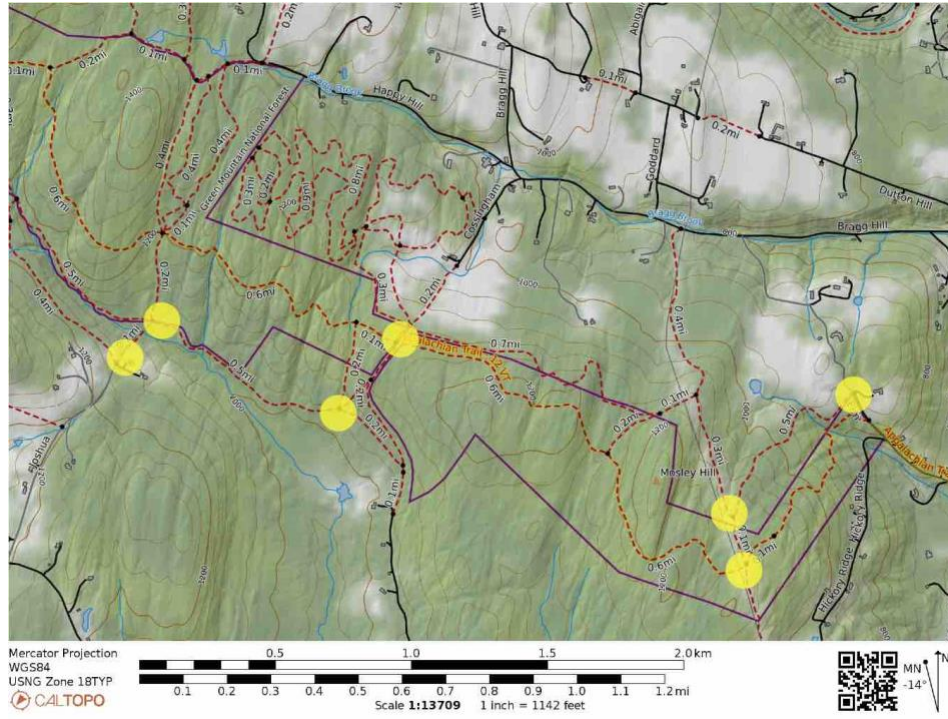


Figure A3. Under-served locations for signs north of the Appalachian Trail corridor.





South and East of AT Corridor

Figure A4. Under-served locations for signs south of the Appalachian Trail corridor.