

# Minutes

## Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, August 6, 2025

Norwich Historical Society

### **Attendees**

Kit Burgin, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, John McCormick, Mary Mitchell, Rory Mitchell, Tory Mitchell, Gerry Plummer, Aaron Sheldon, Cody Williams

The meeting began shortly after 7:00p.

### **Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **Comments from those present**

Kit informed the committee that he has been working with GMP to run electricity to his home which will likely necessitate crossing the bottom of Ladeau Road and Bradley Hill Trail ROWs. The line will be buried and placed either by boring or excavation. Bob will meet in person with Kit to assess.

The Mitchell family contacted the trails committee earlier in the summer about memorializing their brother/son with a bench along the trail up Gile Mountain, a trail he visited and biked regularly. Jim has met the family in person to find three possible suitable sites. Bob and Jim will work with the family around designs that will hold up well to weather and together will bring the matter up with the Town Manager in accordance of the Selectboard gift policy.

### **Updates from the Conservation Commission**

The kiosk at the Melendy Parcel has been installed. Recent EAB management was discussed.

### **Updates from the UVTA**

UVTA will be rebuilding the lower bridge on the Rosemary Reiser Trail next week.

## **Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned**

Bob, Jim, and Doug have cleared a number of trees. It was reported that the sign on the kiosk at the Bragg side of the Heyl Trail has flipped over. Jim cleared some thick ferns crowding the Ballard trail. Cody investigated a tree down across the Schmidt Bog bog bridges that was caused by a tip up, will clear this weekend.

Due to injury, Bob has not been able to mow Parcel 5 as he has historically done. He suggested a future discussion around the possibility of DPW taking on this responsibility.

## **Gile bench donation**

Discussion of this matter was moved up to public comment.

## **Trail and utility ROW**

Bob circulated a draft email to the Planning Director and Zoning Administrator seeking clarity around what obligations utility companies have to repair damage caused by utility access on town trails, specifically Powers and Upper Loveland Trails. The committee approved of Bob's draft and it was agreed to send it.

## **Unleashed dogs on Schmidt Bog trails**

It was agreed to change the working from "Schmidt Bog" to "Trail Network" on the signage. Discussion was had about mounting a third sign at the Four Wheel Drive entrance to the Schmidt Bog trail network but it was agreed to start with the two most directly connected to the particular parcel in question (Hawk Pine and Upper Loveland). Cody will seek approval from the Town Manager to mount the signs and will order them.

## **Trail projects for 2025**

### **Bradley Hill recap from July 20**

5 or so people were in attendance and got a lot of work done.

### **Upper Ballard washout**

A significant section of the upper Ballard Trail near the junction with the Converse Loop washed out in recent flooding events. Bob and Jim have suggested the addition of a 18' long 40" wide bridge to span the 6 foot deep gully that now bisects the trail. The cost is estimated at \$800 with the use of some existing lumber from the installation of the Kids Bridge. There has been an offer of a \$400 donation toward the materials for the project.

It was agreed that a bridge was the right solution. Given the height of the bridge, there was some discussion of one or two hand railings.

Cody will bring the matter to the next Conservation Commission meeting. Bob and Jim will approach the Town Manager about the donation. Pending material and sign off to proceed, a work day was set for September 21.

John had previously reported the failing abutments of the bridge near the old reservoir dam site and some discussion was also had about the state of several other bridges along the Ballard trail. A work day was set for August 24 to make necessary repairs.

#### **Upper Blue Ribbon bog bridges**

Garrett and Brian will complete this work this month. The bridges are in good shape but will benefit from additional traction.

#### **Stairway to Heaven**

The quote from Hermit Woods Trailbuilders was \$2500. This work will need to wait until next year and could be a good candidate for a Women's Club grant application by the Town Manager on behalf of the Trails subcommittee.

#### **Schmidt Bog bog bridges**

Bog bridges are still in good shape but get quite slick and could still benefit from additional traction. Cody will report more after clearing the downed tree.

#### **Website updates**

Gerry has continued his work to the trail pages of the website

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.