

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, October 1, 2025

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

Heather Benson, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Craig Layne, John McCormick, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, Cody Williams

The meeting began shortly after 7:00p.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

DEC has closed their review of Bradley Hill Trail.

A landowner near the intersection of Bradley Hill Trail and Ladeau Road will be running electrical lines to their home using directional drilling; the work is not expected to have any impact on Bradley Hill Trail.

Bob reported on deficiencies with the check dams on Bradley Hill Trail, reported that the trail armoring has held up well, and suggested a possible work day for next year.

Updates from the Conservation Commission

Craig reported interest in developing a forest management plan for the Schmidt Bog parcel with input from interested neighbors.

Moved up from later in the agenda, Cody reported that the signage has arrived for leashing dogs when crossing private property to access the Schmidt Bog parcel, he will work with Jim to install them consistently with other signage on the trail network.

Updates from the UVTA

UVTA is helping extend the accessible trails at Montshire starting next week.

Sean verified the Gile counter is operational and will bring numbers next month.

They have cleared some blowdowns on the King Arthur Trails by the Dresden Fields.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Mostly minor stuff.

Gile bench donation

Jim has not heard any update from the family. Installation will likely be a 2026 project.

Trail and utility ROW

No further updates.

Dog signage for Schmidt Bog trails

Discussed earlier in the meeting during updates from the Conservation Commission.

Trail projects for 2025

Upper Ballard bridge recap from September 21

Good turnout but should have gotten word out sooner to get more volunteers. Installed one railing and held off installing curbing on the opposite side to solicit feedback on whether the addition of a second railing would be beneficial. It was decided that one railing was sufficient and Bob and/or Jim will return to install the curbing on the other side.

At their meeting September 24, the Selectboard approved an anonymous gift of \$600 to help fund materials for the bridge at the Town Manager's recommendation.

Stairway to Heaven

Nick and Cody will work with the Town Manager to navigate the new expectations to maintain compliance with the Seleboard's Gift Policy around applying for a grant from the Norwich Women's Club to fund the work.

Gile fire tower

Bob proposed scheduling a time in 2026 to coat the treads to better protect them from use and exposure to the elements. This would necessitate closing the tower briefly and would be scheduled based on ideal curing weather and to minimize impacts on hikers.

Schmidt Bog bog bridges

Any work on the bog bridges, and greater trail network, will be coordinated after development of a forest management plan.

Parcel 5

A work date was set for October 19 at 8a to clear and reshape water bars.

Gile drainage leaf clearing

A work day was set for November 16 at 8a to clear autumn leaf buildup to minimize damage from spring runoff. Cody suggested the possibility of trimming some of the tree limbs encroaching on the fire tower.

Website updates

Gerry updated instances of "Norwich Nature Area" to use the official "Milt Frye Nature Area" name. Some work remains to update Trail Finder and several maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02p.