

# Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, November 5, 2025

Norwich Historical Society

## **Attendees**

George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, Bob Fiskén, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cody Williams

The meeting began at 7:00p.

## **Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **Comments from those present**

There were none.

## **Updates from the UVTA**

Sean has updated numbers from the Gile counter. Weekend usage was between five hundred and seven hundred people; a bit down from last year. The total for the year was around six thousand. Some discussion was had around accuracy of year-to-year comparisons of the counts. No known reports of road blockages due to parking during peak foliage (as has occurred in previous years).

## **Updates from the Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission continues to work with Willing Hands on a draft of the wording for the Melendy parcel kiosk.

Cody submitted a very brief summary to the Conservation Commission chair, Craig Layne, of the trails committees actions over the last year for inclusion in the town report.

The EAB subcommittee is working on a request for proposals for removal of the trees at the greatest risk to life and property.

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

With some recent wind events a number of trees have come down on trails: Doug cleared several trees on Upper Ballard, Bob cleared trees on Parcel 5 and Bradley Hill,

Sean reported a large (18") tree down across Gile between the parking lot and the trail counter.

Jim and Cody have mounted hunting season notices on most of the trailhead kiosks. The kiosks at Brown Schoolhouse Bridge, Heyl Trail on Elm Street, and Gile have not been mounted but Jim and Cody will mount them soon.

Bob added a handrail and widened the plank bridge on the Ballard Trail reroute.

### **Dog signage for Schmidt Bog trails**

The signs have been mounted at the entrances from Hawk Pine and Upper Loveland.

### **Trail projects for 2025**

#### **Parcel 5 work day recap from October 19**

Around 10 people cleared 130 water bars and 200-300 feet of ditching around the loops of Parcel 5. There was a significant amount of material that had washed into and built up in the water bars and ditching since they were last addressed several years ago.

#### **Gile drainage (November 16)**

A work day is set for 8a November 16 to clear drainage on Gile in preparation for 2026 spring thaw and runoff.

### **Trail projects for 2025**

#### **Ballard Trail stone steps**

Nick and Cody have drafted a grant application for the Norwich Women's Club to cover the cost of hiring Hermit Woods Trailbuilders for resetting the stone staircase. Cody will send this draft to the Town Manager to clarify compliance with the Selectboard's newly passed Gift Policy and understand how the Town Manager would prefer the grant submission process work.

#### **Gile fire tower tread coating**

Will only need a gallon or two to add a protective coating to the newly installed steps to protect them and prolong their life. Will coordinate a time to close the tower to apply and let the coating dry.

#### **Schmidt Bog trail network**

To be further discussed after the Conservation Commission has drafted a forest management plan for the parcel with community input.

#### **Milt Frye Bridge**

Cody noted several missing planks and the rotting condition of the stringers on the bridge behind St. Barnabas. Sean will replace the missing planks to get the bridge

through winter. The committee agreed it would be good to replace the bridge in the 2026 work season. Sean had previously been in contact with John Felde about the bridge, Bob and Nick will contact him.

### **Website updates**

No updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55p.