

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, January 7, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, John McCormick, Sean Ogle, Cody Williams

The meeting began at 7p.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

None.

Updates from the UVTA

Passport to Winter Fun is beginning. UVTA is in prep and planning for the 2026 trail work season.

Updates from the Conservation Commission

The commission was updated on the activities taking place at the Melendy Parcel by Willing Hands. Planning is ongoing for post office displays, listserve posts, and Norwich Times articles. Lynnwood is continuing her work to improve biodiversity in the meadow at Milt Frye. Preventative removal of Ash trees at risk to vehicle/pedestrian safety has been delayed until Spring due to DPW concerns around safety.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

The ice storm brought down a number of trees along Ballard and Parcel 5.

There was some discussion of adding handrails to one of the more elevated bridges along the Bllard Trail below Brown Schoolhouse Bridge to make crossing on packed snow feel safer.

The reroute of lower Ballard is in good shape.

Trail projects for 2026

Ballard Trail stone steps

Nick and Cody will ask for Selectboard approval to apply for a Norwich Women's Club grant to fund this work after their budgeting work is complete, likely in February.

Ballard crossings

Principal concerns are stone crossings on upper Ballard. Committee members will walk and plan in spring.

Gile fire tower tread coating

No updates.

Milt Frye Bridge

UVTA could do the work as a volunteer day. Questions remain about who will fund the materials. The Trails Committee will communicate with Saint Barnabas' Episcopal Church as the bridge is located on their property. They had funded the materials for the last bridge.

At the last Norwich Conservation Commission meeting, Lynwood mentioned that the bridge behind the parsonage has sunk into the stream bed and is restricting water flow. Cody will investigate.

Schmidt Bog trail network

This project is on hold until after the Conservation Commission works up a forest management plan in collaboration with neighborhood landowners.

Website updates

No updates.

The meeting as adjourned at 7:35p.