

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, May 6, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiske, Jonathan Frishtick, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath, 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 Conservation Commission

Cody recapped the items discussed in the last Conservation Commission meeting.

Peg Merrens, Conservation Commission treasurer, heard back from the Finance Department regarding the Selectboard approved anonymous \$600 donation. When the trails committee uses the funds the expenses can be noted as such when submitted to finance. Finance can choose to either over spend the trails line item or create an expense line to reflect the spending of the donation.

There was further discussion around the remaining \$1,387.78. Bob proposed using the funds to replace a rotten 80' section of bog bridge on the upper Ballard Trail as well as build a new 18–20' bridge to span a stream on the upper Ballard Trail. *Nick made a motion to expend funds enough cover materials for both of these projects, Cody seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.* Bob will prepare a material list, Nick and Cody will bring a purchase order to the Town Manager for the materials.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Doug cleared a number of trees on Upper Ballard. Bob cleared trees on the Heyl and Hazen Trails. Cody cleared trees on the connection between the Hazen Trail and Treehouse Children's School. Kathy noted a tree down on Parcel 5, Bob will clear it.

Gile bench

Jim has heard no update from the family donating the bench but Jim believes they would still like to install the bench around Memorial Day.

Trail projects for 2026

Recap of May 3 Ballard crossings work day

Had nearly a dozen volunteers and repaired 4 or 5 crossings by moving and placing many large stones. Was a wetter than expected day which presented some challenges.

Ballard Trail stone steps

The committee should hear from the Norwich Women's Club by June whether the grant has been awarded. Nick has been in contact with Hermit Woods Trailbuilders who will tentatively plan to do the work later in the summer.

Ballard crossings

There will be a second work day on May 31 to address additional crossings on the Ballard Trail.

Gile fire tower tread coating

No updates.

Milt Frye Bridge

Since the work will not be completed until later in the summer, the committee will coordinate with UVTA and St Barnabas in the coming months.

Website updates

Gerry has made a number of updates to the Ballard Trail pages and removed wording from the homepage about the reroute of the lower Ballard Trail from a couple of years ago.

The meeting was adjourned around 8p.