

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, June 3, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Jonathan Frishtick, Peter Griggs, Byron Haynes, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Gerry Plummer, Aaron Sheldon, Cody Williams

The meeting began at 7:00p.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

The committee congratulated Nick Krembs on his much-deserved citizen of the year award.

Updates from the Conservation Commission

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

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Bob cleared a big birch at the start of Gile. Aaron reported a large and precarious leaner on the upper end of Brown Schoolhouse.

Gile bench

Jim and Bob prepped the site and the bench has been installed. The family is happy with it and the committee has gotten positive feedback on it from trail users.

Trail projects for 2026

Recap of May 31 Ballard Trail crossings work day

Six volunteers repaired a tricky double stream crossing by placing large stones.

Ballard Trail stone steps

The committee was awarded a Norwich Women's Club grant and is very thankful for their support of trails in Norwich. Nick has been in contact with Hermit Woods Trailbuilders, the work will likely be performed in the fall. Cody communicated with the Town Manager and Finance about required forms and paperwork.

Gile fire tower tread coating

Need to find a roughly 5 day window of dry weather to perform the work and allow proper time to cure. Will require temporarily closing the tower, so will try to find the least disruptive time as possible for hikers.

Milt Frye Bridge

Cody will reach out to St Barnabas about the project.

Additional Projects

The committee discussed several other possible projects.

Bob and Jim have a materials list to replace the longest bog bridge on upper Ballard that is unstable and compromised. Ideally the committee can utilize the remaining funds in this fiscal year to cover the cost of materials.

The ground ladder a short distance down stream from Brown Schoolhouse Bridge has lost most of it's fill and should be repaired.

Bob discussed a potential project to remove a defunct culvert on the Ballard Trail just below Brown Schoolhouse Bridge. The water currently follows the trail crossing it in a shallow ditch just below the 28-foot wooden bridge. A heavy rainstorm could overrun the ditch and erode the footing for the footbridge.

Future work days were set for June 28, July 19, August 16, and September 20.

Website updates

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8p.