

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, July 1, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

George Clark, Bob Fiskens, Jonathan Frishtick, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Gerry Plummer, Cody Williams

The meeting began at 7:00p.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

There was none.

Updates from the Conservation Commission

Cody recapped various communications with the Conservation Commission, Town Manager, and Finance Department about the Trails Committee desire to use town accounts for purchases at merchants with which the town has an account (primarily Fogg's and Home Depot) rather than the more cumbersome reimbursement process. The Town Manager relayed that the town has recently undergone an exercise to tighten access to town accounts and that he would prefer the Trails Committee continue to use the reimbursement process.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Bob and Doug cleared several trees.

Trail projects for 2026

Recap of June 28 bog bridge work day

On June 21, eight volunteers carried the majority of the lumber needed for the bog bridges to the site (special thanks to two members of the Norwich Fire Department and two very helpful junior trail crew members for their help). On June 28, six volunteers completed 92 feet of new bog bridge during a very muddy day of work. Bob intends to return in the coming days to make drainage areas more resilient during heavy rain events.

Gile fire tower tread coating

No updates.

Milt Frye Bridge

St Barnabas will generously fund purchase of the necessary materials to replace the bridge. Jim replaced several of the rotted planks to improve safety for the Recreation Department summer camps until the bridge is replaced. Cody reached out to the chair of the Milt Frye Nature Area Committee about any concerns around replacement of the bridge; they had none. Cody also contacted UVTA to confirm if they would still be able to fit the bridge replacement into their current trail work season, otherwise the committee and volunteers will plan to do so before the start of the school year.

Ballard Trail culverts

The current “vintage” fluted culvert has filled in and water now diverts along the trail, crossing very near the footing of the 28’ bridge. The plan will be to dig and remove the culvert, replacing it with a wide ditch to divert water across the trail where the current culvert sits. A July 19 work date was set to complete this work.

Ballard Trail ground ladder

The committee discussed possible solutions to the erosion of the ground ladder.

Website updates

There was some discussion about the inconsistencies between various Milt Frye Nature Area trail maps.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8p.