

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, August 5, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskén, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, John McCormick, Gerry Plummer

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

There was none.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Faughnan and Fiskén reported on Doug Hardy's removal of a fallen ash tree on the Gile Tower Trail. Fiskén reported on brush clearing and weed-whacking on various trails.

Logging plans on Cossingham Farm Trails

Krembs reported on plans this fall for a tree harvest operation there that will interrupt normal hiking, and mentioned the invitation by the owners for committee members to join a tour of the site with the forester. No members were able to attend.

Trail projects for 2026

Recap of Ballard Trail work day July 19

McCormick recapped the July 19th work session to redirect water flow away from a fragile bridge abutment. An ancient, unuseable culvert was removed and replaced with a well armored, open-flow water crossing.

Gile fire tower tread coating

Fiskén reported a start on the Gile Tower tread recoating project that completed the end-grain application of preservative. The tread surface coating to follow will depend on a stretch of favorable weather and listserve notification of that day's closure of the tower.

Milt Frye Bridge

Faughnan reported on plans for coordinating with the UV Trails Alliance for their scheduled August 14th replacement of this access to the Milt Frye trail system. Committee members are planning on carrying out the demolition of the existing crossing structure and removal of that debris.

Ballard Trail stone steps

No additional information was available for the late fall sub-contracting of the resettlement of a dozen or so stone steps on the long flight on lower Ballard Trail.

Website updates

Plummer reported on the correction of two errors in a Web-based Trail Information System that describes hiking conditions on Ballard Trail. He was successful in contacting the people involved in its management to correct: 1) Current availability of the Brown School House Bridge for hikers' access from the Parcel Five Parking area to the middle portion of Ballard Trail; and 2) A correction that updates the availability of benches in that same area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25