Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee
7 pm, November 4, 2026
Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Gerry Plummer, Cody Williams

Comments from those present

Gerry reported that the bench along the edge of the pasture at the end of Cossingham Trail just before it joins the AT has fallen apart. Discussion was had about whether to replace it and, if so, how.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Bob and Jim removed downed trees on the Converse Loop. Bob replaced the post for the Parcel 5 sign. There is a very large tree down on Woody Adams; if there are enough volunteers at this weekend's work day on Gile, several people will try to clear it.

Jim noticed someone carrying a chainsaw up the Woody Adams Trail on the game cameras placed to capture wildlife usage of the Woody Adams parcel. Discussions were had about clearing of downed trees, unauthorized trail work, and chainsaw safety.

Gile parking drainage improvements

Bob and Jim have attended several Selectboard meetings to discuss the matter. There was general agreement that work should be done but it is unlikely the town will take action this season. The drainage around the perimeter has filled in and is level with the parking surface; the parking lot will likely be very wet, soft, and difficult during the spring thaw if not addressed before then.

Trail projects for 2026

Ballard Trail stone steps

Hermit Woods Trailbuilders completed the work on the stone steps. The committee thanks them for the excellent work and have had a lot of great feedback from trail users.

Cossingham Trails

Bob and Jim attended the walkthrough led by the forester and loggers involved in the timber harvest on Cossingham. The loggers left the trails in great shape. There was good attendance and a number of attendees spent time cleaning up the shortcut trails between loops on the trail which had been used for hauling logs. The committee discussed options for replacing the old bridge and will plan to stay in touch with the landowners about completing this work in the 2027 trail work season.

Gile work day November 8

Attendees should meet at the Gile parking area at 9a. Cody will send a work day request for volunteers.

Trail Projects for 2027

A few projects were discussed, including the Cossingham Bridge and more benching to create passing places on the Ballard Trail reroute.