



Agenda

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, May 5, 2021

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81843241733>¹

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda**
2. Comments from those present
3. Report on fund balances available for trails

Trail infrastructure

4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned
5. Work days to schedule:
 - a. Upper Loveland Trail
 - b. Upper Ballard Trail (See Appendix A)
6. Planning scope of work on Lower Ballard Trail—Discuss:
 - a. Proposed Scope of work for 2022 from Upper Valley Trails Alliance
7. Trail information standards: Working group report on blazes
8. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge (BSB) and Happy Hill (HH) parking areas: Liaison with town management, regarding configurations and signage?
 - a. Report on proposed action for BSB
 - b. Report on discussion about HH parking
9. Planning for “kids’ bridge”—Identify volunteer strength required
10. Around Norwich Trails program—Coordination with Norwich Trails volunteers

Trail use

11. Recreational hiking program—update

Financial

12. Benches for the Brown Schoolhouse Bridge and Ballard Trail--Update
13. Clarification of purchasing procedures—Guidance from town manager
14. Report on 2021 Norwich Women’s Club grant applications:
 - a. Lower Ballard Trail
 - b. Signage

¹ For dial-in information and assistance, see next page.

15. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking—Draft report to Norwich selectboard
 - a. Gile Mountain
 - b. Burton Woods Road
 - c. Elm Street
 - d. Happy Hill Road

Other

16. Items for June meeting
 - a. Further organizing for the “Kids’ Bridge”.
 - Site staging area
 - Construction manual
 - Tools needed
 - Number of volunteers and supervisors needed
 - Training needed (video, etc.)
17. Items for future meetings
 - a. Developing a trails master plan, as required by the 2020 Norwich Town Plan.

18. Adjourn

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81843241733>

Dial-in Information:

Meeting ID: 818 4324 1733

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81843241733# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,81843241733# US (New York)

Contact for assistance:

Nick Krembs (802) 649-1048

Calendar reminders:

You are welcome to download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUlc-qqqjotGdfV9OwiW8dA4WZTEP9_Ypof/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGppi8pGNCUtxqERpwcGo-gb-rwiH5ajadbqkbKFCIkOgfXYtV4BpdPSefp

Discussion material for agenda items:

5. Work days to schedule:

b. Upper Ballard Trail (See Appendix A)

6. Planning scope of work on Lower Ballard Trail—Discuss:

a. Proposed Scope of work for 2022 from Upper Valley Trails Alliance:

The trail segment is approximately 1200 feet beginning from the southeastern trailhead of the Bill Ballard Trail. Running slopes would be primarily 5% or less except where the topography requires a steeper trail, and in those cases will be built to ABA standards.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sean Ogle** <sean.ogle@uvtrails.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 20, 2021, 10:13 AM

Subject: Ballard Trail ADA Estimate

To: Nick Krembs <nick.krembs@gmail.com>

Cc: Russell Hirschler <russell.hirschler@uvtrails.org>

Hi Nick,

Attached is an initial estimate of the cost of constructing the ADA portion on the Lower Ballard Trail, ~\$54,000.

The specifications used for this estimate are: 5 feet in width, cribbed stone on each side of the trail, and a base of 4" 3/4" ledgerstone + 4" of 3/8" hardpak. This does not include the cost of bridges as designs can vary widely (the current bridges on the rest of Ballard are probably fine, assuming they are wide enough).

We have not had an experienced operator visit the site to determine the feasibility of using heavy machinery to transport materials. The estimate for that portion of the work was taken from the cost of using heavy machinery at VINS transporting a similar amount of material. In order to get a definitive answer on how much of the trail could be constructed with machinery, we would need to get an experienced operator to assess the topography on the Lower Ballard Trail.

Thanks!

Sean

10. Around Norwich Trails program—Coordination with Norwich Trails volunteers

Registration is required, but free with a suggested donation to help maintain the trails.

Published at:

https://norwichvt.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29958.

15. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking—Draft report to Norwich selectboard (See Appendix C).

Appendix A



Trail Survey: Upper Ballard Trail

25 April, 2021

Stephen Flanders, volunteer

Background—Elisabeth Hammer, a new Norwich Trails volunteer, suggested that the upper Ballard Trail receive a survey, focusing on water crossings and wet areas during spring run-off conditions. She noted that there were some areas that could use improved crossing structures. On 22 April, I walked from the Brown Schoolhouse Road to the Grand Canyon to record any such problems. Here is what I found, presented in order of priority:

- Perennially flooded area where trail relocation is indicated.
- Grand Canyon stream crossing needs improved height and stability of stepping stones.
- Boggy areas for puncheons
- Boggy areas for maintenance of drainage
- Area discussed for steps leading away from stream

Refer to **Appendix B** for locations. Also click on [links to photographs](#).

Perennially flooded area—The area at [43.744831, -72.350486](#), downstream of the Grand Canyon crossing where one steps across a fallen apple tree, is subject to overland flow, which has eroded the treadway and is impassable at high water. A relocation is indicated.



[Frequently flooded area](#) (l.) and [proposed trail relocation](#) (r.)—to the left when facing upstream

Grand Canyon crossing—I found the water to be flowing over a stone that would be used for stepping on. The next stone on the upstream side (towards Converse Loop) is loose.

Puncheon candidate areas—I distinguish “puncheons” from “bog bridges” by the following: Puncheons are made from a log sliced length-wise and mounted on log supports, whereas bog bridges are made from dimensioned lumber. Puncheons are an alternative for areas, where carrying lumber is more laborious than harvesting a nearby tree. I recommend new puncheons at three locations:

- [Wet Area #1](#): Located at [43.738956, -72.345756](#).



- [Wet Area #2](#): Located at [43.741039, -72.347481](#).



- [Wet Area #3](#): Located at [43.743189, -72.347619](#), this is an area previously identified for puncheons as [BTSC21](#).



Boggy area for maintenance—I found two muddy areas where autumn leaves had obstructed runoff and created muddy areas. These, I drained using my boot to make a

channel downhill through the mud. Upon my return, one had started to drain, the other appeared to need puncheons (Wet Area #1).



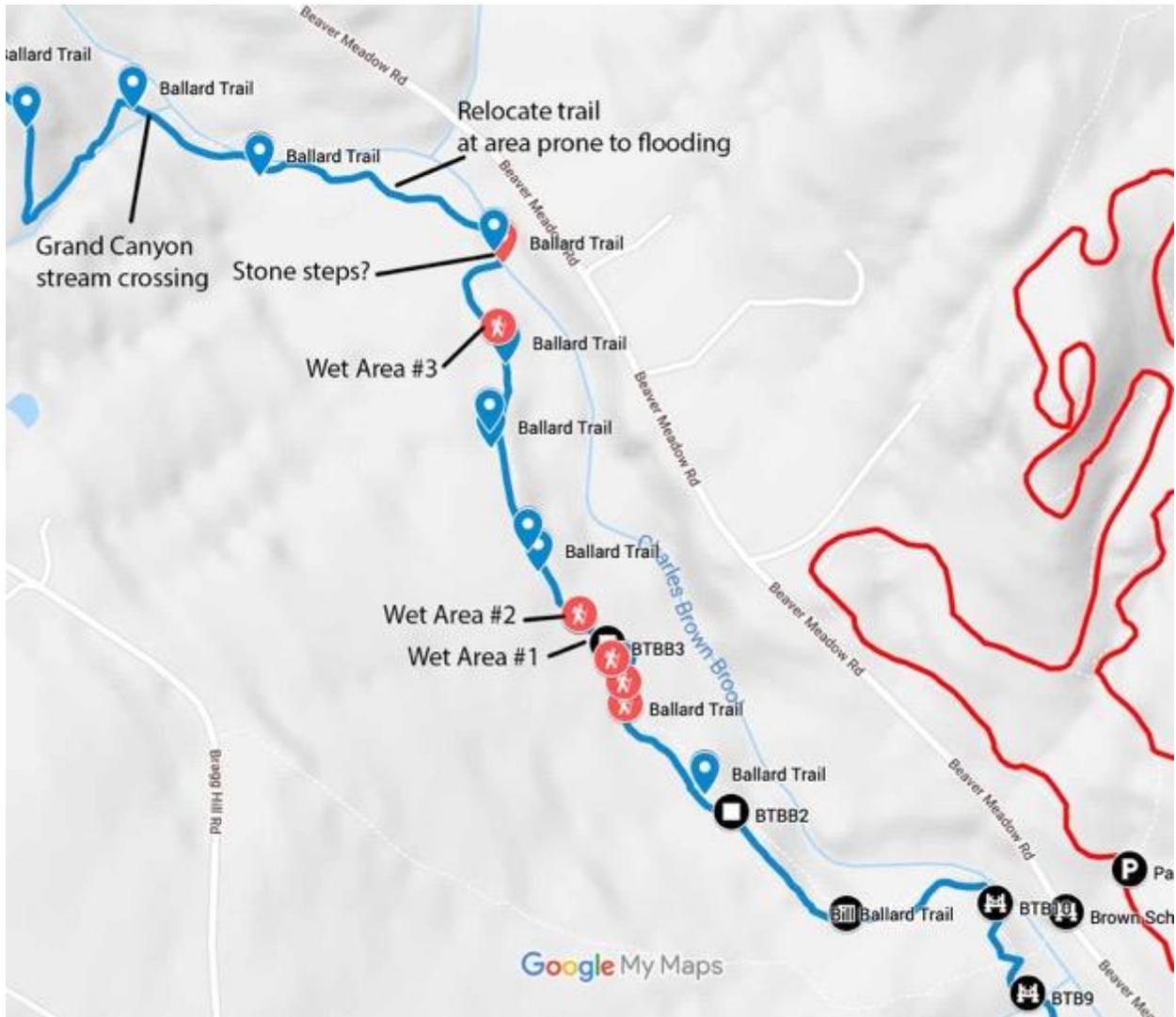
Wet spot at [43.738361, -72.344856](#), designated [BTSC38](#), before and after draining.

Candidate step area—I had no difficulty with traction under foot, surmounting the slope leading away from the stream at [43.744772, -72.350044](#). This has been identified as a candidate area for stone steps.



[Candidate area for steps.](#)

Appendix B



Problem area locations

Appendix C

Draft Memorandum

TO: NORWICH SELECTBOARD
FROM: NORWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SUBJECT: NORWICH TRAILS CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN FOR 2023
DATE: MONTH X, 2021
CC: TOWN MANAGER, NORWICH TRAILS COMMITTEE

1. *Summary* – This memo summarizes capital budgetary priorities for the fiscal year 2022-3.
2. *Capital items* – The capital spending items, supporting Norwich trails for FY 2022-3, include installation of expanded parking at the following locations:
 - Construction of the Gile Mountain trailhead expanded parking lot.



Area for expansion of the Gile Mountain parking lot

- Happy Hill Road installation of parking beyond power pole on south side to avoid conflict with turn-around. Existing parking would receive a sign, defining the area reserved for turn-around.



Area for expansion of Happy Hill parking lot

- Elm Street parking improvements, as follows: Utility ROW (subject to coordination with neighbors), augmented shoulder parking, and augmented shoulder spillover parking on Hickory Ridge Road.



Area for expansion of Elm Street parking

- Bragg Hill Road: Gravel turnout opposite the Heyl Trail entrance for two spaces.
- Hazen Trail: Expansion of parking by two spaces.

- Two-vehicle off-road parking at Burton Woods Trail.



Area for a Burton Woods Road parking lot