



# DRAFT Notes

## Norwich Trails volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, JUNE 2, 2021

**Location:** Kearney-Niles Pavilion, Huntley Meadows

### Attendees:

*Norwich Trails Committee members present:* Cody Williams *Absent:* Craig Layne and David Hubbard

*Volunteers and members of the public:* Nick Krembs (facilitator), Stephen Flanders (scribe), George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Peter Griggs, Elisabeth Hammer, Jane LeMasurier, John McCormick, Sean Ogle, Brie Swenson

### AGENDA

A quorum of the Norwich Trails Committee was not present during this meeting, which came to order at 7 pm as a meeting of Norwich Trails volunteers.

1. *Approval of agenda*—Krembs introduced the agenda. There were no suggested changes.
2. *Comments from those present*—Krembs invited comments about items not on the agenda.

Three topics were discussed:

- Williams reported that the Norwich Women's Club granted the request in the amount of \$875 in support of the Norwich Trails Subcommittee of the Norwich Conservation Commission's Norwich Trail Signage project. Funds are available June 1, 2021 and need to be distributed by May 1, 2022. Once the project is complete, the town should send paid invoices with a W-9 tax form to the Norwich Women's Club.
- Ogle reported that the Upper Valley Trail Alliance (UVTA) has received a grant to perform work on the Ballard Trail. The grant terms allow flexibility of scope of work. Krembs suggested that the work address the lower end of the Ballard Trail up to the power lines.
- Ogle and Swenson reported that the Marion Cross School will make a portion of the Norwich Nature Area Trails handicap-accessible. Swenson would appreciate technical advice from trails volunteers. The trail will be built to meet Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) standards.

### Trail infrastructure

3. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Some trees on the Burton Woods trail have been cleared.
  - a. Upper Loveland Trail May 16<sup>th</sup> work day.
    - The story posted on [Norwich Trails website](#) describes the participation of ten volunteers, who completed the work in about 2.5 hours.

- A follow-up discussion of what signage might be needed led to agreement that signs conforming to the newly developed standards be placed at the top and bottom of the section that was worked on.
4. Scope of Norwich Trails responsibilities? The question was posed in correspondence from Gerry Plummer about who should be responsible for maintaining new mountain bike (MTB) trails, especially those at Parcel 5. LeMasurier summarized the level of volunteer interest and resources available for mountain bike trails and suggested that the MTB community would be very active and self-directed in building and maintaining mountain bike trails. Norwich Trails volunteers will provide signage at the entrances to such trails and show them on its website maps.
  5. Work days to schedule: Discussion addressed the scope of work identified in the May 22 trail survey of the Upper Ballard Trail. The following dates were identified at the May meeting. The following work projects are suggested, as follows:
    - a. June 13<sup>th</sup>: Work will begin at 8 AM with details on the muster point for volunteers and tools to be announced. The scope will include
      - Trail relocation from where the brook periodically floods.
      - Resetting stones at the Grand Canyon stream crossing.
    - b. July 18<sup>th</sup>: Bridges identified near the top of the Upper Ballard Trail
    - c. August 15<sup>th</sup>: TBD
    - d. September 19<sup>th</sup>: TBD
    - e. October 17<sup>th</sup>: TBD

Unresolved was when and on what aspect of work the UVTA volunteers would be assigned.
  6. Planning scope of work on Lower Ballard Trail—Discussed the robustness of the proposed Scope of work for FY 2022-3 from Upper Valley Trails Alliance in light of George Clark’s questions about flooding robustness. Ogle said that he would review the specifications for ability to withstand high-volume, high-velocity flood water.
  7. Report on the May 22<sup>nd</sup> reconnaissance of the Upper Ballard Trail: Flanders summarized the contents of the report, highlighting the recommendation for a trail relocation in a periodically flooded area, the need to reset stepping stones at the Grand Canyon crossing and the recommendation to install two new bridges.
  8. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge (BSB) and Happy Hill (HH) parking areas: Liaison with town management, regarding configurations and signage?
    - a. Report on completion of BSB parking: Swenson reported on the completion of the contract to remove the waste blocks and to provide a stone perimeter to the parking area. She received appreciation for the initiative that she took in arranging for and overseeing the contract.
    - b. Report on discussion about HH parking: Flanders reported on a telephone conversation with Chief, DPW about the parking area, which has recently seen people using receiving warnings and tickets—a change from past practice. Absent a revised understanding about how to manage parking in the current space, Flanders proposed including an engineered expansion of parking as part of an initiative to improve trail parking town-wide. Williams offered to investigate the possibility of coming to an understanding of accommodating the multiple interests without the need for expansion.

9. Planning for “kids’ bridge”— Swenson announced that this project is on hold and possibly overcome by events until an engineering study can be completed, regarding an affordable housing project that would be sited along Beaver Meadow Road on the shore of the Charles Brown Brook, opposite Huntley Meadows.

#### **Trail use**

10. New mapping of trails: LeMasurier endorsed the revised mapping of mountain bike trails on Parcel 5.
11. Feedback on Appalachian Trail Corridor: Krembs reported that US Forest Service POC Chris Mattrick anticipates that the scoping study notice and opportunity to comment should be mailed out in June.

#### **Financial**

12. Clarification of purchasing procedures—Swenson has agreed to be the town point of contact for making purchases that are in the town budget or from funds granted to the town.
13. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking—Deferred to the July meeting.

#### **Other**

14. Items for July meeting
  - a. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking
  - b. Additional work day planning
  - c. Application of UVTA volunteer work
  - d. Converting the Burton Woods Road to a trail to allow for stabilization—draft wording for the selectboard.
15. Items for future meetings
  - a. Developing a trails master plan, as required by the 2020 Norwich Town Plan.

#### **16. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.