



Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, August 4, 2021

Location: Kearney-Niles Pavilion, Huntley Meadows

Attendees:

Norwich Trails Committee (NTC) members present: Craig Layne. David Hubbard (facilitator) and Cody Williams.

Volunteers and members of the public: Stephen Flanders (scribe), George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Peter Griggs, Elisabeth Hammer, John McCormick, Sean Ogle, Cathie Redpath

AGENDA

1. *Approval of agenda*—Hubbard opened the meeting at 7:05. There were no proposed amendments to the agenda.
2. *Comments from those present*—Sean Ogle reported on the Upper Valley Trails Alliance-directed work to perform benching on the Lower Ballard Trail and a relocation of segments of the Brown Schoolhouse Trail for mountain bikes.

Trail infrastructure

3. *Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned*
 - a. Upper Ballard Trail July 25th work day—Faughnan and Fisken reported on the drainage work on the western loop of Parcel 5.
 - b. Feedback on the effectiveness of the Blue-Ribbon Connector blazing—Williams reported that he had received approving feedback from one individual about neatness and spacing of the newly painted blazes.
4. *Scope of Lower-Ballard Trail work*
 - a. Report on Women's Club Funding: Hubbard reported that the funds to do the work have been received.
 - b. Work to be contracted: Hubbard described the scope of the work to provide a well-drained treadway from Ballard Park past the nearby eroded lower sections of the trail, using crushed stone as a material, emplaced by skid-steerer. Work is expected to get under way in late August-September.
5. *Trail kiosks*
 - a. Finalize designs: The NTC by consensus requested that Faughnan lead the construction effort within the budget provided, using his best judgment on design and construction. Faughnan accepted the assignment. Faughnan will build a prototype.
 - b. The locations needing new kiosks were, as follows, as mentioned in the discussion material:
 - Brown Schoolhouse Bridge
 - Cossingham Trail

- Tucker Trail at Happy Hill Road
 - Small kiosks: Blue Ribbon (2), Blue Ribbon connector, Heyl Trail (upper and lower), Upper Ballard, Upper Brown Schoolhouse Road, Burton Woods Road
6. *Trail kiosk signage*
 - a. Identify locations: No change in locations of kiosk signage was identified, other than having a small kiosk set in from the trailhead of the Upper Ballard Trail.
 - b. Identify material to be shown: The basic format in the discussion material was agreed to in principle, pending a review of current displayed material to make sure that no important items are omitted. Williams and Flanders will provide a prototype sign for the September meeting.
 - c. Identify town approval process: With the departure of the town manager and the absence of a DPW chief, the approval process is uncertain.
 7. *Work days to schedule*
 - a. August 15th – Complete Parcel 5 ditching and clipping, Upper Ballard Mudholes, blazing at locations to be determined. Krembs will advertise, beforehand.
 - b. September 19th – Work on Grand Canyon ford
 - c. October 17th–TBD
 8. *Appalachian Trail Corridor*
 - a. Set up working group for proposing additional retention of trails: The NTC agreed to invite Doug Hardy to form a working group, at his discretion, from among those who signed the petition regarding approving cross-trails on the AT corridor. The working group would report to the NTC. Williams to contact Hardy.
 - b. Utility of [web compendium of related documents](#): The NTC agreed that a web compendium of posted documents that address the history of obtaining permission for trails within the corridor would be a valuable resource to inform the working group and the public.
 9. *Proposal for conversion of Burton Woods Road segment to a trail*
 - a. Identify proposed scope of conversion: Agreed, for now, that the scope of the request for redesignation would be from Bragg Hill Road to the crest of the shoulder of Griggs Mountain.
 - b. Review draft NTC memo to Selectboard: Accepted, for now, the elements contained within the draft memo to date, but will add specific recommendations from a delegation of individuals familiar with trail building for foot travel and mountain bikes on how to mitigate drainage and do trail location along the side, where appropriate. Flanders will contact names suggested.
 - c. Review of parking lot proposal: Deferred until status of the right of way is settled.
 10. *Developing a trails master plan, as required by the 2020 Norwich Town Plan*: Deferred to another meeting.
 11. *Planning scope of work on Lower Ballard Trail*—Noted report received from Sean Ogle on flood robustness of UVTA proposed Scope of work.

Financial

12. *Planning for FY 2022-23 budget*: Parking—Draft report to Norwich selectboard to recommend for Trails line item:

- a. Gile Mountain: Endorse parking lot expansion
- b. Elm Street: Endorse better-defined parallel parking improvements
- c. Happy Hill Road: Propose clarified statute (Williams and Flanders), explore added parallel parking beyond current turn-around.

Other

13. *ANTS Program*—Insufficient turn-out of hikers to involve Trails volunteer leaders.

14. *Items for September meeting*

- a. Schedule construction and installation of kiosks
- b. Confirm signage for kiosks
- c. Status of Heyl from Bragg Hill Road

15. Items for future meetings

16. Adjourn