

# Agenda

## Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, November 3, 2021

**Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651305884><sup>1</sup>

### AGENDA

#### 1. Approval of agenda

2. Comments from those present

### Trail infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA

4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned:

a. October 17<sup>th</sup> – Work on Ballard Grand Canyon stream crossing, bridge relocation

5. Trail kiosks—FY 2021-2 Trails budget: \$2,500

a. Update progress

b. When to replace at P5, Ballard Park, Gile Mountain?

6. Trail kiosk signage

a. Approve material to be shown for Gile, Blue Ribbon, Parcel 5

7. Work days to schedule:

a. November 14<sup>th</sup>—Gile Mountain water bar cleaning

8. Conversion of Burton Woods Road segment to a trail

a. Update on NCC action

9. Appalachian Trail Corridor

a. Report on action from USFS

b. NTC position on Barred Owl/Jericho Trail

### Financial

10. Planning for FY 2022-23 budget: Parking—Draft report to Norwich selectboard

a. Gile Mountain

b. Burton Woods

c. Elm Street

d. Happy Hill Road

11. Trails infrastructure budget

### Other

12. Items for November meeting

a. Schedule construction and installation of remaining kiosks

b. Confirm signage for kiosks

13. Items for future meetings

### 14. Adjourn

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<sup>1</sup> For dial-in information and assistance, see next page.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651305884>

**Dial-in Information:**

Meeting ID: 818 4324 1733

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81843241733# US (Chicago)

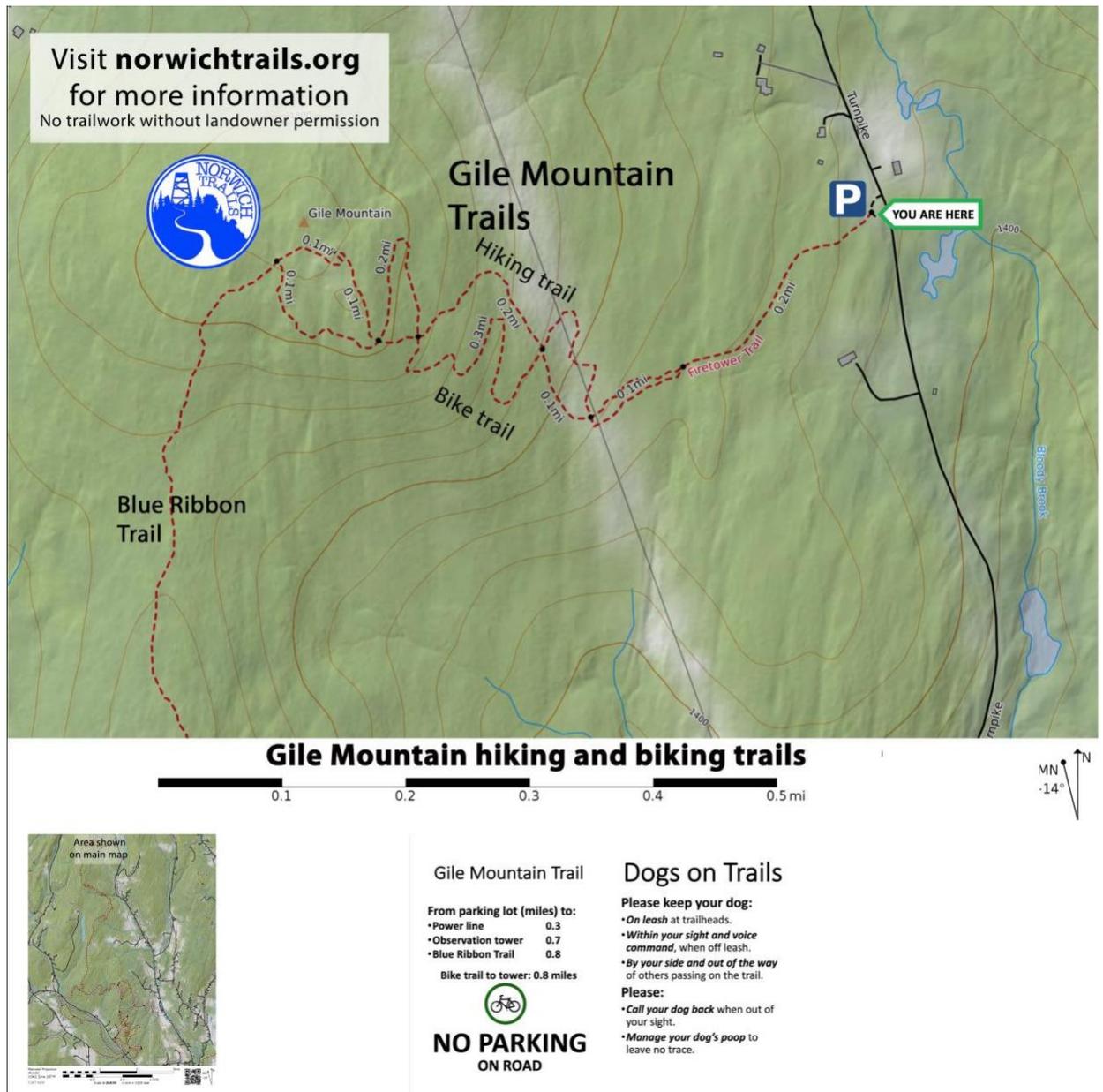
+16465588656,,81843241733# US (New York)

**Contact for assistance:**

Nick Krembs 802-649-1048

# Discussion Material

6 a. Approve kiosk display material to be shown for Gile, Blue Ribbon, Parcel 5



36" by 36" for Gile Mountain kiosk



## Blue-Ribbon Trail



### Dogs on Trails

**Please keep your dog:**

- *On leash* at trailheads.
- *Within your sight and voice command*, when off leash.
- *By your side and out of the way* of others passing on the trail.

**Please:**

- *Call your dog back* when out of your sight.
- *Manage your dog's poop* to leave no trace.

24" by 36" for Blue-Ribbon Trail small kiosks  
(top, bottom, and intersection with connector)



Visit [norwichtrails.org](http://norwichtrails.org)  
for more information  
No trailwork without landowner permission

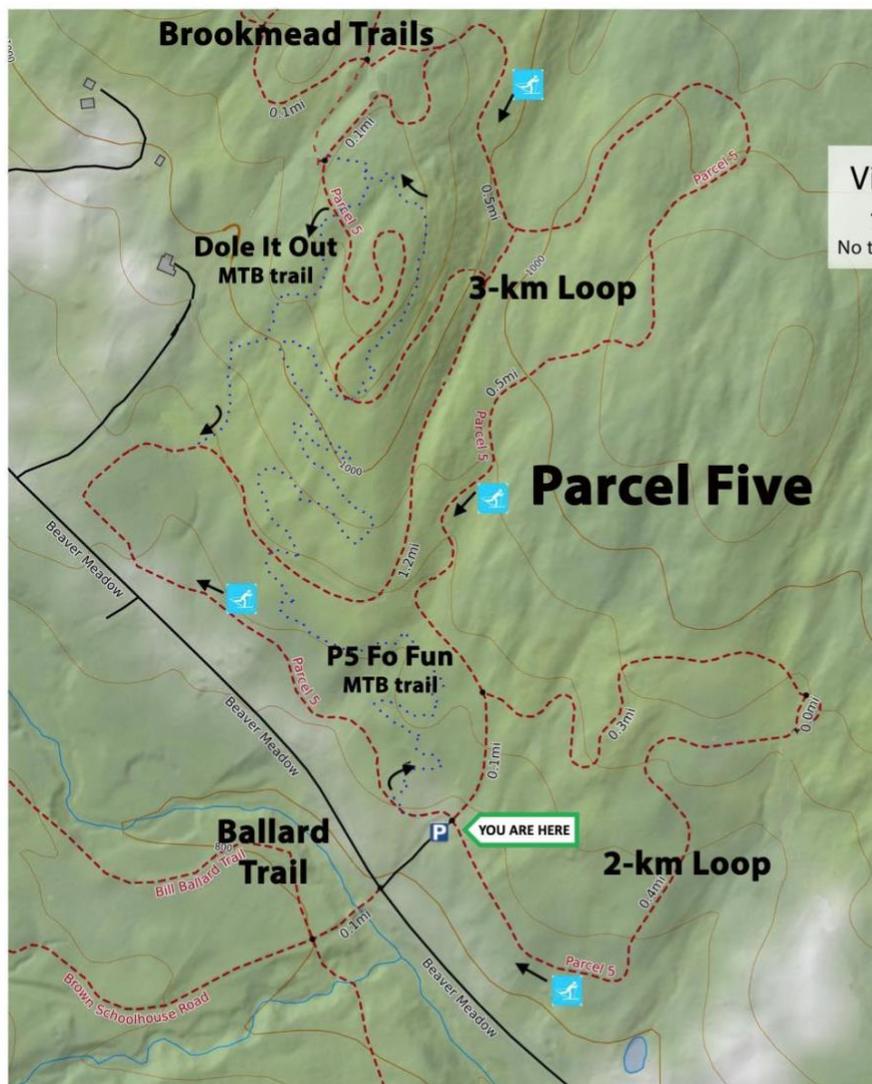
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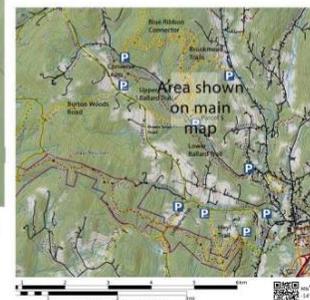
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- **Within your sight and voice command**, when off leash.
- **By your side and out of the way** of others passing on the trail.

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### Parcel Five Multi-Use Trails



36" by 36" for Parcel 5 kiosk

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**DRAFT MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** SETH A. COFFEY, SHAWN LANGSTON, CHRISTOPHER MATTRICK, USFS  
**FROM:** NORWICH TRAILS COMMITTEE  
**SUBJECT:** ADDENDUM: APPALACHIAN TRAIL SIDE & CORRIDOR CROSSING TRAIL DESIGNATIONS  
**DATE:** NOVEMBER X, 2021  
**CC:** NICK KREMBS, STEPHEN FLANDERS

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1. *Summary* – In its July 9 input on this topic, the Norwich Trails Committee supported two of the three proposed Appalachian Trail side and corridor trail designations outlined in a June 2021 Small Projects Day memo on this topic. The committee requested time to reconsider the status of the **Joshua Trail** (shown in green on your depiction of proposed trails). This is to request that the long-standing foot-travel only (western-most) crossing be authorized and that the recently introduced mountain bike routes be closed.
2. *History of the Joshua Trail* – For decades, there has been an informal crossing between the Tucker Trail and Joshua Road, called the “Barred Owl Trail”. Our May 5, 2019 “Request to authorize four existing trails within the Appalachian Trail Corridor in Norwich” emphasized the importance of that crossing to create hiking loops from both the Cossingham and Happy Hill trailheads (Figure 2). More recently, mountain bikers constructed two nearby unauthorized routes between the Tucker Trail and the Appalachian Trail. Both sets of users crossed the AT on a single path to arrive at Joshua Road.
3. *Current status of the Joshua Trail* – Two things have changed since our May 5, 2019 proposal: a) the landowner to the north of the Tucker Trail has closed his property to mountain bikes and other users, which means there is no prospect for mountain bike traffic needing to cross at this point. b) The Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association withdrew its support of the proposal on behalf of its constituency.
4. *Proposal for the Joshua Trail* – We request that the western-most crossing on the traditional “Barred Owl Trail” be authorized for foot travel only and that the more recently introduced mountain bike routes be closed. With that authorization, we would route the trail around some seasonally wet spots at the top (Tucker Trail) and bottom (Joshua Road) or provide some simple infrastructure to facilitate passage. The unauthorized mountain-bike routes would be blocked with forest debris.

NTC,

*Please note my strong objection to the November 3, 2021 Agenda Item 9b. regarding the Jericho Trail closure to bikes. The Draft Memorandum point #3a) regarding the closure of the Lang property to MTB users and the presumption that this "means there is no prospect for mountain bike traffic needing to cross at this point" is simply false and uninformed. I have ridden just about every designated bike trail in town. The current bike trails adjacent to the Barred Owl Trail are some of the most beautiful and pleasant to ride in Norwich. I have never used the Lang property and am not a member of UVMBA; they do not speak for me nor others who would like a crossing between the vast gulf between the Cossingham crossing and Five Corners. I have used the AT, side trails and crossings as a cyclist, runner, hiker and dog walker for years. It is rare to see more than one other person; most of the time is spent alone. More rare is to see a single MTB track. There are private land trails that connect to the AT that will continue to see usage by bikes. This action seems to me, a solution in search of a problem. I urge you to recommend the Jericho bicycle crossing that considers the needs of cyclists in this community.*

*Chris Rhim*

*53 Willey Hill Rd.*

**From:** David Emerson ...

**Subject:** Draft memorandum

**Date:** November 1, 2021 at 10:50:13 AM EDT

**To:** norwichtrailsignup@gmail.com

This memorandum does not align with my interests, and should not be submitted to GMNF. Thanks.

Dear NTC,

Many thanks for all of the work you do to support outdoor recreation in Norwich. I am writing to express concern over the NTC withdrawal of the effort to pursue multi-use crossing of the AT corridor. Doug Hardy and others have previously very eloquently elaborated the many excellent benefits for the land and community to pursue this effort. It appears that the NTC has decided to withdrawal the proposal due to the fact that a landowner has currently closed adjacent trails to the public. I respectfully request the withdrawal of the effort to be reconsidered.

The NTC has a rich history in working with public and private landowners in the pursuit of providing inclusive and sustainable opportunities for Norwich trail users. The current proposal has local support and fits very well with this charge. There are a few reasons not to abort this effort that has already begun. First, we do not know if the private landowner's trails are closed permanently or if there may be an opportunity to work with them, as has been done in the past with so many landowners. Second, we have an opportunity right now with the GMNF to pursue this initiative. If we give up this opportunity now, it will likely not be available in the future. Finally, by shutting down this effort, there is a risk of marginalizing an important constituency.

Again, thank you so very much for all of the work you do for Norwich. Please feel free to reach out with any comments or questions. I am sorry I will not be able to make it to the meeting this week.

Sincerely,

Rich Zuckerman