

Agenda

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, May 4, 2022

Huntley Meadow Pavilion

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Facilitator
2. Comments from those present: Attendees

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle
4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Reports from attendees
5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects discussed in April.
 - a. Betty Booth Trail
 - b. Gile Mountain treadway
 - c. Parcel 5 damage repair
 - d. Brown Schoolhouse Road wet area
 - e. Powers Trail drainage and treadway
 - f. Schmidt Bog
 - g. Woody Adams parcel
 - h. A-frame bridge
 - i. (New) Tucker Trail quagmire crossing
 - j. (New) status of Upper Loveland Trail
6. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge bench: Review suggestions from Nick Fabrikant.

Financial

7. Funding source for possible UVTA work on Powers Trail drainage: Ogle

Other

8. Happy Hill turnaround: Update from Layne.
9. Appalachian Trail Corridor: Communication from the USFS.
10. Future website map formats: Plummer
11. Items for June meeting
 - To be determined

12. **Adjourn:** Facilitator.

Discussion Material

5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects discussed in April.

e. Powers Trail



f. Schmidt Bog



i. Tucker Trail quagmire crossing



j. Upper Loveland Trail



6. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge bench—Review suggestions from Nick Fabrikant:

I respect very much the added consideration; Durability- let's choose a bench that will last 80 years. Let's also tie the site together with an aesthetically appropriate structure and place it in the optimal orientation to make everything integrate, like Nature itself. Implemented with Honest Materials.

First the bench, to give you a rundown of five options I came up with, and are attached:

Attachment a) Attractive, concrete materiality acceptable, but lacks back support and is too ornamentally stripped.



Attachment b) Handsomely spartan. Stone durability is exceptional, but lacks back support and thus isn't orthogonally conscious. Would match aesthetically well though with nearly anything due to its timeless appeal.



Attachment c) Has a back and armrests and is orthogonally conscious but a bit post-modern and slick for our overall rustic aesthetic outcomes at the site. Durability is questionable due to the lack of substantial material proportions.



Attachment d) Handsome, inviting, safe, and made with treated mahogany specifically for the outdoors, but we can do better in regards to both matching the bridge and honoring maximum durability.



Attachment e) A triumph of design for our site.



This exact geometrical configuration in a pure silver color to match the aluminum color to connect itself to the railing and our site seamlessly. Streamlined-deco, moderne in the classical sense, exceptionally durable and safe, even the armrests are slightly cantilevered like the ends of the railings, and bolts connect firmly onto a concrete pad. Additional attributes below:

- Galvanized steel finished with 3-layer Powder Coating process
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) / Handicap accessible
- Customizable color
- Orthogonally conscious
- Maintenance free
- Highly durable in extremely hot, cold, humid and salty outdoor conditions
- Corrosion resistant
- High degree of UV protection and color stability
- Environment-friendly and 99% recyclable

Also, the bench is currently placed incorrectly in regards to the arrangement of the site.



Orientation: The bridge is orthogonal, man-created, hence the intentional contrast with wild Nature. Architecture never perfectly pieces into Nature, that's why attempts to do so, "to make

it match nature" look so wonky when attempted. This error is noticed, consciously or not, and immediately by the human eye and mind that there's something immediately off, incongruent, incompatible, contradictory. Rocks, trees, water, etc. are naturally cohesive and anything manmade should also be intentional in their geometrical prowess, hence the deliberate contrast and thus the organized connection of two opposing but complimentary parts. The bench is in the correct area, it's just facing the wrong direction- it should be perpendicular to the bridge with the seat facing those walking from the roadside to the trailside. To look upstream or downstream is a simple twist of the head, 30° at most in either direction. Perpendicularity also signifies intentionality- when one walks across the bridge, direct eye contact and smiles are welcomed by those sitting on the new beautiful bench on the other side of the stream.



We'd like to achieve a simple beauty where the eye doesn't have to work too hard to understand what's going on; this is the key, the hard-won simplicity in an aesthetically correct and unifying work.

Respectfully,

Nick Fabrikant

10. Future website map formats: Plummer

- Current website maps rely on CalTopo freeware and the use of a Photoshop (license required) to edit out unwanted features (e.g. private trails). This is an tedious, ad hoc process which must be repeated for every map/version.
- Next generation of maps will continue to use CalTopo, but employ features that allow us to efficiently overlay our trail system data (stored in files we control) onto a base map we have created to capture the topography and other, non-trail features we wish to include on the map.
- Next-generation maps will be available, as now for download for private printing.