

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, June 1, 2022

Huntley Meadow Pavilion

Attendees:

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

Volunteers and members of the public: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs (facilitator), John McCormick, Sean Ogle, and Gerry Plummer

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Krembs brought the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
2. Comments from those present: There was no request for comment from those present.

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported that The Norwich Women's Club had granted funds for two projects: The Powers Trail and the King Arthur Trail bridge. He anticipates starting the Powers Trail work in the next few weeks, after obtaining permission from the Norwich town manager to use a small excavator. The King Arthur work will utilize Trails Corps volunteers and will take place in July or August.
4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Faughnan reported that Doug Hardy had removed some minor blow-downs on the Upper Ballard Trail and that some minor issues had been taken care of on the Gile Mountain Trail.
5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects discussed in May.
 - a. Betty Booth Trail was not discussed at this meeting.
 - b. Parcel 5 damage repair (May 22): Fisken reported that he would be working gradually to repair damage done by a vehicle incursion, last winter.
 - c. Brown Schoolhouse Road wet area (May 22): Fisken summarized the [work done on May 22](#) to redirect spring-fed ground water away from a portion of the Brown Schoolhouse Road, just above the bridge opposite Parcel 5.
6. Allocate work for identified workdays—June 4 and 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, and October 16:
 - a. A-frame bridge: haul materials (June 4); build new bridge (June 19): Krembs summarized the number of volunteers to date and identified who would be greeting volunteers at Parcel 5 at 8 am (Flanders) and who would greet them at the A-frame bridge (McCormick). After the volunteers have carried new materials to the site, he and Faughnan will commence to dismantle the existing bridge.
 - b. Woody Adams Conservation Forest: Layne reported that he will organize some volunteers to advise on a trail layout that bypasses the haul road supporting the replacement of power poles.
 - c. Powers Trail drainage and treadway: As reported by Ogle, above.

- d. Status of Upper Loveland Trail: Fiske reported on the destruction of the trail work done by the volunteers in [May of 2021](#) by a contractor installing underground fiberoptic cable. Layne will take this matter up with the town manager.
 - e. Schmidt Bog boardwalk: Layne reported that there will be a neighborhood meeting to identify potential work to mitigate invasive species and to reconfigure the boardwalk. There will be consideration of interim measures to make the existing boardwalk safer.
 - f. Gile Mountain treadway: Faughnan reported that the powerline contractor has made some helpful realignments of drainage. He will propose a plan to transport crushed stone from the power line stockpile to the portions of treadway in need of improvement. Work is suggested for July or August.
 - g. Tucker Trail quagmire crossing: Flanders reported that he had secured permission to install a non-pressure-treated structure to bridge the crossing. Faughnan volunteered to assist, using materials from the former temporary bridges that were on the Ballard Trail.
7. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge bench: The NTC members expressed their thanks for Nick Fabrikant's offer to replace the existing bench with one that is more aesthetically compatible with the bridge and its siting. They noted that the donors of the current bench were very attached to its current installation. Those present supported retaining the existing bridge. Hubbard will draft a reply to Fabrikant.
8. Signage: Flanders introduced the signage proposed for trail intersections, using material supplied by a Norwich Women's Club grant. Krembs asked that the subcommittee that developed the signage policy, adopted by the NTC, review the signage proposed and report back.

Financial

9. Status of Women's Club funding of proposed UVTA work on Powers Trail drainage: As reported by Ogle, above.

Other

10. Happy Hill turnaround: Layne reported that there has been no update from the town on this issue.
11. Appalachian Trail Corridor: There has been no communication from the USFS.
12. Future website map formats: Plummer plans to develop a template for next-generation mapping of trails.
13. Update on the "Kids' bridge": Krembs reported through Don McCabe that the bridge has yet to receive the necessary permits. A designated town fund holds the means of payment. He is hoping that volunteers will assemble and install the Rolling Barge Company-designed bridge.
14. Items for July meeting: Nothing specific was identified.
- 15. Adjourn:** Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:20.