

## Norwich Trails Committee Volunteers Minutes for July 6, 2022

### Attendees:

Norwich Trails Committee Members: present: Craig Layne; absent: David Hubbard, Cody Williams

Norwich Trails Volunteers and members of the public: Greg Anderson, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fisken, Nick Krembs, Sean Ogle (present only at the start of the meeting), Gerry Plummer.

Because a quorum of members of the Norwich Trails Committee was lacking, this meeting was not an official meeting for that committee. Nevertheless, this meeting provided a useful exchange of information and plans for that committee.

Greg Anderson, a new volunteer, was welcomed.

### Agenda:

1) The agenda was approved as announced by the facilitator, Nick Krembs.

2) Comments from those present:

George Clark reported that Craig Layne had recently received a distinguished Conservation Leadership Award from the Upper Valley Land Trust for his work on the Woody Adams Conservation Forest.

George Clark, substituting as scribe for this meeting, expressed his appreciation to the regular scribe, Steve Flanders, for having prepared the draft agenda and supporting materials for this meeting.

### Infrastructure:

3) Sean Ogle from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) reported that the UVTA has been in discussion with town offices regarding permission for the UVTA to work on the Powers Trail. (The Trails Committee already has such approval.)

4) Since the June meeting, Jim Faughnan and Doug Hardy have cleared trail blockages on the Ballard Trail and Tucker Trail.

5) The following updates were presented for trail projects for 2022:

a) Authorization for trail work on the Betty Booth Trail is pending.

b) In May, Bob Fisken repaired damage on Parcel 5 resulting from unauthorized use of motorized vehicles in the winter..

c) Also in May, a wet area on Brown Schoolhouse Road near Blood Brook was greatly improved through installation of a culvert.

d) On June 4, 16 people helped to haul materials for a new bridge on the Ballard Trail. Then, on June 19, seven people assembled that new bridge at the site. Materials from demolition of the old bridge were removed from the site.

The assistance of an especially large number of volunteers in helping to haul materials is greatly appreciated.

6) Consideration was given to the most favorable dates on which to hold Trails Committee work sessions planned for 2022.

a) Woody Adams Conservation Forest (WACF): A group from the Norwich Conservation Commission is to be at work on July 7 and 8.

The Trails Committee work session at WACF is to be October 16.

b) Powers Trail drainage and treadway: The UVTA will be in charge. No date has been set.

c) Schmidt Bog boardwalk: More discussion with neighbors is needed. Closest access for delivery of materials to the site would be through a road off Hawk Pine Road. A Trails Committee work session has been tentatively set for August 21, but the date might be subject to change.

d) Gile Mountain treadway: The materials are already on hand, but one or two track haulers and four to six people will be needed. July 17 was set for a work session. More information will be emailed when it becomes available.

e) Tucker Trail quagmire crossing: Permission for this work has been given by Bob Hagen (Green Mountain Club) and Eric Friets (Appalachian Trail Adopter). The Trails Committee work session is scheduled for September 18.

f) Converse Trail: Work is needed in the section in the woods alongside the field. The treadway there is very rough with stones and overgrown with ferns. The Trails Committee session to work on the treadway is scheduled for August 21.

## 7) Signage

Prospective signs along the Bradley Hill Loop were discussed. A kiosk has already been placed close to the southern end of the Bradley Hill Trail. The question was raised as to whether a sign should be placed to indicate a parking area. All present agreed that

the project for installation of six signs at intersections along that loop should move forward. Funding for those signs is already available.

It was concluded that decisions about prospective signage around the Appalachian Trail Corridor should be delayed awaiting input about plans for the Corridor from the Forest Service. However, a kiosk is to be placed near the northern end of the Burton Woods Trail.

8) It is not yet known who was responsible for trail destruction on Upper Loveland Road during excavation for installation of fiber optic cables.

9) No new information is available about the Happy Hill Road turnaround.

## Other

10) Potential items for the August meeting include a) Burton Woods Trail signs, b) an update about the Appalachian Trail Corridor, and c) Schmidt Bog.

11) The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Clark