

Notes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, September 7, 2022

Huntley Meadow Pavilion

Attendees:

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

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

Absent a quorum of the NTC, this meeting was a discussion among members of the Norwich Trails volunteers

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Facilitator, Krembs opened the discussion at 7:05. It was agreed to add a discussion of the Chapel Hill Road bridge to “Coordination with town”.
2. Comments from those present: No comments were offered.

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported that he had made several efforts to contact the town manager, regarding working on the Powers Trail. He will try again, before commencing work. He reported that Gile Mountain foot traffic appears to have returned to pre-pandemic levels for the same reporting period.
4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Faughnan reported clearing two Ballard Trail trees on August 21. He reported contacting Consolidated Communications, regarding fallen trees depressing the telephone lines that cross the Ballard Trail.
5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects
 - a. Schmidt Bog boardwalk recon (August 18): Plummer reported on the condition of the boardwalk and noted that additional trails are occurring in the area. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Conservation Commission should identify an overall plan for the area and report any potential role for trails volunteers to upgrade the infrastructure. Restoring the area to a lady slipper bog would entail clearing the buckthorn in the area under contract to a specialist. Updating the boardwalk infrastructure potentially would entail budgeting for the supplies and recruiting neighborhood volunteers.
 - b. Converse Trail (August 21): Griggs reported that the crew cleared hazardous stones from the trail and placed them on a nearby wall, it improved drainage in the upper section, and cleared out impinging ferns. Additionally, a crew repaired the crossing at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, replacing and moving stepping stones.
6. Allocate work for identified workdays (Sundays: September 18, and October 16), according to the following priorities:
 - a. Tucker Trail quagmire crossing (September 18): Faughnan reported that materials have been staged for this project. The bulk of the work will be to portage it to the perennially wet (currently dry) drainage from a pond on the Tucker Trail. Volunteers will be solicited on the Norwich Lists in advance of the date.

- b. Woody Adams Conservation Forest (October 16): Griggs will organize a reconnaissance team to put together ideas for a scope of work to be discussed at the October meeting.
 - c. Powers Trail drainage and treadway: Ogle will notify the town office of his intent to proceed.
7. Signage and kiosks
- a. Report on progress: The Bradley Hill Trail kiosk is installed. Kiosks for Powers Road, Cossingham Road and Happy Hill are not constructed or installed. FY 2022-3 funds are available for purchasing materials for kiosks and signs.
 - b. Blazing the Blue Ribbon Trail: This has not occurred.

Coordination with town

- 8. Powers Trail machinery access: See above discussion
- 9. Chapel Hill bridge: Hubbard proposed that the Trails Committee advocate for replacing the span, if not with a highway bridge, then with a span to support recreational traffic, including ATVs, bicycles and foot travel. Scenarios for funding include petitioning a warrant article for a future town meeting.

Other

10. Items for October meeting:
- a. It was agreed that the October meeting would occur at the pavilion, but be scheduled for 5 pm.
 - b. Woody Adams reconnaissance report and proposed scope of work for October
 - c. Progress on expending against FY 2022-23 budget.
 - d. Proposed items for FY 2023-24 budget.

11. Adjourn: Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.