

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, May 3, 2023

Norwich Historical Society

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255864325>

Attendees:

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

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

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Facilitator Krembs opened the meeting at 7 pm and asked for public comments.
2. Comments from those present:
 - Ogle mentioned the failure of the trail traffic counter at Gile Mountain and recommended replacement. After some discussion, it was agreed that the unit should be replaced and one or more additional units should be purchased out of available funds.
 - Hammer suggested placement of signage on the Cossingham Trail to indicate the point of crossing of the Appalachian Trail. After some discussion, it was agreed that some simple signage be placed.

Town interactions

3. Updates on:
 - Trailhead parking: Discussion addressed parking at Happy Hill and Upper Loveland turnarounds during fair weather.
 - Schmidt Bog: Discussion about which trails to represent on the website suggested a representation of the primary loop and the connection with Upper Loveland Trail. No designated parking location was agreed upon.
 - Burton Woods Road: Layne's discussion with town officials awaits their further deliberation about the advisability of placing load limits on the road, as permitted by statute.
 - Woody Adams Conservation Forest: Discussion addressed refinements in drainage and the size and design of the information on the kiosk. Kiosks on the Gile Trail and the new trail connecting into the Gile Trail will display the same information, encompassing the network on the parcel.

Infrastructure

4. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported the Rieser Trail to be in good repair.
5. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned:
 - Fiskin volunteered to address residual blowdowns at the bottom of the Powers Trail on Pattrell Road.

- Williams volunteered to address reported blowdowns at the upper entrance to the Barred Owl/Jericho Trail.
6. Trail projects for 2023
- Gile Mountain Trail—Krembs reported the drainage to be satisfactory, but encouraged someone to do some minor clearing of gutters, where needed.
 - Heyl Trail—Griggs will lead the work crew to relocate segments of the trail. The meeting time will be May 21 at 0800. Tools will include those for brush cutting and minor treadway smoothing.
 - Blue Ribbon Trail—The time for completion of blazing has not been determined.
 - Woody Adams Parcel—Completion of trail work has not been scheduled.
 - Powers Trail—Fisken and Flanders reported the state of improvements on the trail, accomplished by Ogle last autumn. Flanders reported satisfactory water control. Fisken suggested some refinements that include increased cross-drainage and hardening of the treadway. Fisken recommended the installation of a chain across the upper end to discourage passage by road vehicles. Layne to meet with town officials about a chain.
7. Update on kiosks and trails signage: Faughnan awaits good weather for outdoor construction on kiosks for the following trails:
- Burton Woods at Bragg Hill Road
 - Heyl Trail at Elm Street and Bragg Hill Road
 - Powers Trail

Financial

8. Plan for funding in Trails line item in Conservation Commission budget
- Faughnan observed that there is a sufficient store of materials to complete the proposed bridge at the park end of the Ballard Trail
 - A draft design of the update of Gile Mountain Trail kiosk and new Adams Gile Trail kiosk will be presented for the June meeting.

Other

9. Webpage update:
- Profiles of volunteers: Flanders will send out an invitation for volunteers to provide information that will be part of a home page profile on volunteers.
 - Updated mapping technology: No new information available.
 - Successorship in maintenance: Plummer and Williams will increase their activity in maintaining the site, when Flanders becomes unavailable.
10. Email distribution addressed to **norwichtrails@gmail.com**: After a brief discussion, it was agreed that there was no need to change the current arrangement whereby mail comes to Hardy and he identifies who should take action.
11. Scribe successorship: No-one has been identified to replace Flanders in September.
- 12. Adjourn:** Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.