

# Minutes

## Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, May 7, 2025

Norwich Historical Society

### **Attendees**

Kit Burgin, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Byron Hayes, Garrett Heaton, Nick Krembs, Brian Kunz, Craig Layne, Sean Ogle, Cathie Redpath and Cody Williams

The meeting began at 7:00p.

### **Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **Comments from those present**

There were none.

### **Updates from the Conservation Commission**

There will be a new kiosk at the Norwich owned Melendy parcel where Willing Hands maintains fields along River Road just where it meets Church Street and Route 5 to accompany a trail around the fields which should be added to the infrastructure survey.

### **Updates from the UVTA**

A work day has been scheduled for May 28 from about 10a–2p to replace two bog bridges and clear a blockage on the Rosemary Rieser trail.

UVTA has added a guardrail to a new trail around the Montshire Museum.

Trail Tuesdays will be starting up again June 3 at 5p at the Norwich Inn.

### **Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned**

Doug, Jim, and Bob have been busy clearing many blockages and downed trees after some significant spring storms.

### **Unleashed dogs on Schmidt Bog trails**

The committee agreed to purchase two signs the same or similar to those that were installed several years ago at Milt Frye and Ballard Park; one to be posted at the Hawk Pine Road entrance to Schmidt Bog and the other at the Loveland Road side. There

was some discussion around the challenges posed by access to the Schmidt Bog parcel being entirely via private property and the desire to maintain public access by using this signage to encourage good behavior from trail users.

Jim will check with Chris Kaufman and Brie Swenson about how the current signs were purchased to begin the process of buying two more. Cody will follow up with Chris Bobcowski, who had originally brought the issue to the commission, if he and his neighbor were in agreement about posting the sign at the trail entrance as it abuts his neighbor's parcel.

## **Trail projects for 2025**

### **Stairway to Heaven**

Jim met Sam Brakeley of Hermit Woods Trailbuilders to investigate. Despite significant water elsewhere, there was no water coming from above the stairs, so there will be no value in a work day to add drainage to route water away above the stairs. It is believed that the water undermining the stairs is seeping from beneath the stairs themselves. Sam suggested resetting the stairs and moving them away from the slope to add drainage along the high side. Will get back to the committee with a quote on the stone work.

Since there would be no use in a work day for May 18, it was suggested to use the date to work on Powers Trail.

### **Powers Trail (May 18)**

Agreed on 8:30 AM start. Plan to avoid blocking driveways. Regular digging tools to be used.

### **Upper Blue Ribbon bog bridges (June 7)**

Need to contact mountain bikers for help and possible budget for materials. Some materials may already be on site. Plan to inspect existing bridges and wood supply, and assess condition for repairs. National Trail Day (June 7th) targeted for work.

### **Bradley Hill (July 20)**

Water and leaf buildup discussed. Ditch maintenance is ongoing, with a focus on making it easier to clear leaves. Consideration of using coarse gravel instead of jagged rocks to prevent leaf dams. Decommissioning a culvert is a future task, not urgent.

### **Upper Ballard crossings**

Crossings to be reviewed in June/July for stone repositioning and possible bridge construction. Some crossings have widened due to increased rainfall. Plan to prospect for suitable stones and use a lightweight cabling system for moving them.

**Schmidt Bog bog bridges**

Scheduled for late August or September when conditions are drier.

**Blue Ribbon Connector re-route**

New reroute flagged with landowner support (Jane and Graham). Plan to build a short section of trail to improve connectivity with ski and bike trails. Work day to be coordinated with Jane and mountain bike volunteers. Plans to install new signs for trail identification and direction, especially for the downhill Flow Trail to improve user navigation and safety.

**Website updates**

Gerry was unable to make the meeting but has been working on the trails overview and new trail guide pages and will be publishing some work in progress pages next week (keeping current ones linked to menu, etc., for public use for now).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22p.