

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee

7 pm, September 2, 2026

Norwich Historical Society

Attendees

George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskén, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Brian Kunz, John McCormick, Gerry Plummer, Aaron Sheldon

The meeting began at 7:05p.

Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Comments from those present

There were none.

Updates from the Conservation Commission

Williams shared the positive feedback from the Conservation Commission on the repairs and addition of a handrail to the ground ladder on the Ballard Trail.

Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned

Hardy and Fiskén cleared some trees along the Ballard trail.

Graffiti clean up

Nick Fabrikant removed graffiti from the railings on Brown Schoolhouse Bridge, Fiskén removed some of the particularly profane graffiti from the Gile fire tower cabin, and Faughnan removed graffiti from the Gile fire tower cab.

Discussion of possible Gile parking improvements

Fiskén shared his proposal to improve the drainage on the Gile trail parking. The parking has a tendency to collect water along the perimeter between the lot and the trailhead. Fiskén proposes adding a French drain along this perimeter to divert water away from the parking and make the edge of the lot on that side more functional. The committee unanimously supported Fiskén bringing this matter in front of the selectboard.

Trail projects for 2026

Recap of August 16 work day

A small group worked to clear the ditching and check dams along Bradley Hill. The water diversion has worked very well and the trail is in great shape.

Gile fire tower tread coating

Fisken and Faughnan applied a protective coating to the treads. In addition to a posting to the list serve, Jim placed good signage to alert hikers that the tower was closed for the day. Ideally another coat will be applied in two or three years.

Milt Frye Bridge

Fisken and Faughnan disassembled the old bridge and removed the debris. On August 14 a UVTA trail corps crew constructed the new bridge, significantly improved the trail approach on either side of the bridge, and shielded the waterway under the bridge. Faughnan joined them for the workday. UVTA kept the material cost just under the budget generously donated by St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church. Everyone agreed that the new bridge looks great.

Ballard Trail stone steps

No updates.

Website updates

Plummer added a notice to the homepage about the closure of the Cossingham trails during their timber harvest.

Woody Adams Trail

Faughnan discussed the possibility of adding crushed stone to the Woody Adams trail on the short stretch that crosses the power line ROW. The trail has not received consistent enough use to compact the path to keep weeds down and the stone could help keep tall weeds, and thus ticks, down.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.