

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.

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for August 3, 2022

Norwich Trails Committee Members present: Craig Layne, Cody Williams

This meeting constituted an official meeting of the Norwich Trails Committee because a quorum was present.

Volunteers present: Greg Anderson (arrived at the end of the meeting), George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer.

The agenda was approved. No comments were offered for items not on the agenda.

Work by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) on the Powers Trail is to be done in the fall. The UVTA awaits town approval for use of heavy machinery in that anticipated work on the Powers Trail.

Recent trail blockages were cleared on Brown Schoolhouse Road, Brookmead (3 blockages), and the Gile Mountain Trail. Doug Hardy and Jim Faughnan were principal workers in clearing those trails.

During a July 17 Norwich Trails Committee work session, nine participants moved substantial quantities of gravel and hardpack to improve a 234 foot section of treadway on the Gile Mountain Trail.

The next work session on Sunday August 21 is to be held on the Converse Trail (a loop off the upper Ballard Trail). Participants are to meet at 8:00 am in the large pull off on the south side of Beaver Meadow Road near the junction with Tucker Hill Road. Participants should bring work gloves and drinking water. Tools for cutting vegetation, especially ferns, and hoes will be useful.

The Schmidt Bpg boardwalk needs repairs to increase safety. On the afternoon of Thursday August 18, Nick Krembs, Gerry Plummer, and Cody Williams plan to visit the site to assess the situation. A number of questions remain unanswered. For example, are neighbors in favor of the presence of the boardwalk? Although public access across privately owned lands has been generously allowed in the past, it would be desirable to have more formal authorization to assure continued access into the future. Are there regulations about using pressure treated wood in such a location? If wire is to be used to increase traction for walking on the boardwalk, what are the specifications for such wire? For whatever work might be done, the Town Manager is to be kept informed.

Questions were raised about the need for a proposed kiosk at the intersection of Bradley Hill Trail, Ladeau Road, and Kerwin Hill Road. Might a simpler sign suffice at that location? The Bradley Hill Trail in its upperpart is believed to be presently outside the historic roadway so there is a case to be made for rerouting the trail to the original route. Such a reroute would require considerable effort and use of an excavator.

It was suggested that the question of Burton Woods Road load limits might be raised through a communication to the Selectboard.

Topics for the September meeting include planning for work on the Tucker Trail and in the Woody Adams Conservation Forest. Considerable planning remains to be done for potential work on the Schmidt Bog boardwalk.

It was pointed out that there is a need for more blazes along the Blue Ribbon Trail between the two towers.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark, Substitute Scribe

DRAFT Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, June 1, 2022

Huntley Meadow Pavilion

Attendees:

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

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

AGENDA

- 1. Approval of agenda:** Krembs brought the meeting to order at 7 pm. There were no adjustments to the agenda.
2. Comments from those present: There was no request for comment from those present.

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported that The Norwich Women's Club had granted funds for two projects: The Powers Trail and the King Arthur Trail bridge. He anticipates starting the Powers Trail work in the next few weeks, after obtaining permission from the Norwich town manager to use a small excavator. The King Arthur work will utilize Trails Corps volunteers and will take place in July or August.
4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Faughnan reported that Doug Hardy had removed some minor blow-downs on the Upper Ballard Trail and that some minor issues had been taken care of on the Gile Mountain Trail.
5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects discussed in May.
 - a. Betty Booth Trail was not discussed at this meeting.
 - b. Parcel 5 damage repair (May 22): Fiskén reported that he would be working gradually to repair damage done by a vehicle incursion, last winter.
 - c. Brown Schoolhouse Road wet area (May 22): Fiskén summarized the [work done on May 22](#) to redirect spring-fed ground water away from a portion of the Brown Schoolhouse Road, just above the bridge opposite Parcel 5.
6. Allocate work for identified workdays—June 4 and 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, and October 16:
 - a. A-frame bridge: haul materials (June 4); build new bridge (June 19): Krembs summarized the number of volunteers to date and identified who would be greeting volunteers at Parcel 5 at 8 am (Flanders) and who would greet them at the A-frame bridge (McCormick). After the volunteers have carried new materials to the site, he and Faughnan will commence to dismantle the existing bridge.
 - b. Woody Adams Conservation Forest: Layne reported that he will organize some volunteers to advise on a trail layout that bypasses the haul road supporting the replacement of power poles.
 - c. Powers Trail drainage and treadway: As reported by Ogle, above.

- d. Status of Upper Loveland Trail: Fisker reported on the destruction of the trail work done by the volunteers in [May of 2021](#) by a contractor installing underground fiberoptic cable. Layne will take this matter up with the town manager.
- e. Schmidt Bog boardwalk: Layne reported that there will be a neighborhood meeting to identify potential work to mitigate invasive species and to reconfigure the boardwalk. There will be consideration of interim measures to make the existing boardwalk safer.
- f. Gile Mountain treadway: Faughnan reported that the powerline contractor has made some helpful realignments of drainage. He will propose a plan to transport crushed stone from the power line stockpile to the portions of treadway in need of improvement. Work is suggested for July or August.
 - g. Tucker Trail quagmire crossing: Flanders reported that he had secured permission to install a non-pressure-treated structure to bridge the crossing. Faughnan volunteered to assist, using materials from the former temporary bridges that were on the Ballard Trail.
- 7. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge bench: The NTC members expressed their thanks for Nick Fabrikant's offer to replace the existing bench with one that is more aesthetically compatible with the bridge and its siting. They noted that the donors of the current bench were very attached to its current installation. Those present supported retaining the existing bridge. Hubbard will draft a reply to Fabrikant.
- 8. Signage: Flanders introduced the signage proposed for trail intersections, using material supplied by a Norwich Women's Club grant. Krembs asked that the subcommittee that developed the signage policy, adopted by the NTC, review the signage proposed and report back.

Financial

- 9. Status of Women's Club funding of proposed UVTA work on Powers Trail drainage: As reported by Ogle, above.

Other

- 10. Happy Hill turnaround: Layne reported that there has been no update from the town on this issue.
- 11. Appalachian Trail Corridor: There has been no communication from the USFS.
- 12. Future website map formats: Plummer plans to develop a template for next-generation mapping of trails.
- 13. Update on the "Kids' bridge": Krembs reported through Don McCabe that the bridge has yet to receive the necessary permits. A designated town fund holds the means of payment. He is hoping that volunteers will assemble and install the Rolling Barge Company-designed bridge.
- 14. Items for July meeting: Nothing specific was identified.
- 15. Adjourn:** Krembs adjourned the meeting at 8:20.

DRAFT Notes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, May 4, 2022

Huntley Meadow Pavilion

Attendees:

Norwich Trails Committee (NTC) members present: None. Absent: David Hubbard, Cody Williams and Craig Layne

Volunteers and members of the public: Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Peter Griggs (facilitator), Sean Ogle, Gerry Plummer, Cathie Redpath

AGENDA

1. **Approval of agenda:** Griggs called the meeting of volunteers to order at 7:05
2. Comments from those present: There were no comments

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported on Item 6, the Powers Trail.
4. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: Faughnan reported that there were a lot of downed trees in the trail system, which had been cleaned up by Doug Hardy and others.
5. Trail projects for 2022: Updates on trails projects discussed in April. Flanders summarized and email form Nick Krembs, who could not attend this meeting, wherein Krembs suggested the following two projects for May 22: Parcel 5 damage repair and Brown Schoolhouse Road wet area

Krembs suggested working on replacing the A-frame bridge on the Ballard trail over two June work days, as follows: June 4—haul materials, June 19—build bridge. Krembs suggested the following priorities for the remaining projects:

- P1 - Woody Adams Woods Road Trail
- P2 - Powers trail drainage and treadway
- P3 - Upper Loveland trail status
- P4 - Schmidt Bog boardwalk
- P5 - Gile Mtn treadway
- P6 - Betty Booth trail status
- P7 - Tucker trail wet crossing

Krembs suggested the following subsequent work Sundays: July 17, August 21, September 18, and October 16

Those present found no fault in what Krembs had suggested.

6. Brown Schoolhouse Bridge bench: A review of suggestions from Nick Fabrikant was deferred to the June meeting.

Financial

7. Funding source for possible UVTA work on Powers Trail drainage: Ogle reported having submitted a Women's Club grant to perform the work for \$1,000 with a combination of equipment rental and volunteer labor. The scope of work will be to create a durable drainage ditch along the trail, parallel to a built-up treadway.

Other

8. Happy Hill turnaround: No update.

9. Appalachian Trail Corridor: No communication from the USFS.

10. Future website map formats: Plummer said that the summary in the agenda read-ahead material adequately summarized how to make future maps easier to implement. 11. Items for June meeting

- Schedule projects for workday schedule
- Address bench
- Website formats

12. Adjourn: Griggs adjourned the meeting at 7:20.

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, March 2, 2022

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651305884>

Attendees: (all by Zoom)

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

Volunteers and members of the public: George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskén, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Peter Griggs, Elisabeth Hammer, John McCormick, Sean Ogle, and Brie Swenson

AGENDA

1. Approval of agenda: Hubbard called the meeting to order at 7:05. It was agreed to add “Posting for mud season” after the update from the UVTA.

2. Comments from those present: There were no further comments

Infrastructure

3. Update from the UVTA: Ogle reported that Gile Mountain Trail traffic was slightly down in the fall, but slightly up in the winter.

4. Posting for mud season: Faughnan noted that the road network would soon be posted for springtime weight limits and it would be appropriate to monitor trails for potential mud season closures. It was agreed that closure of parking lots was up to the discretion of the Department of Public Works. Hubbard solicited volunteers to monitor trails for closure. Volunteering were:

- Faughnan: Gile Mountain Trail
- Hubbard: Blue Ribbon and Ballard Trail
- Fiskén: Parcel 5

Flanders volunteered to include “Closed for Mud Season” signs in his upcoming order for kiosk signs.

5. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned: None reported. 6. Trail projects for 2022: The projects were considered and discussed further, as follows. • Gile Mountain treadway—No discussion.

- Parcel 5 damage repair—No discussion.
- Brown Schoolhouse Road wet area—This area is just up from the bridge and could be addressed with a small load of crushed rock, some heavy-duty geotextile, and hand labor to build a French drain.
- Heyl trail routing from Bragg Hill Road—Fiskén pointed out that the traditional route is difficult to maintain, owing to the plant growth there. The consensus was to establish the Bragg Hill Road entrance of the trail at the VELCO gate and to explore any bypasses of the VELCO road, higher up, for future signage.
- Powers Road drainage and treadway—Flanders explained that this completes a walking route that includes the Bradley Hill Trail, Kerwin Road, and Pattrell Road. Fiskén confirmed that it is classified a trail, not a road. The route is subject to reconnaissance, assessment and prioritization.

- Gile Mountain Tower—Any of deterioration of the steps on this town-owned property should be a budgeting concern for the selectboard and subject to contracted services from properly qualified providers. The NTC may have a role in finding funding from conservation interests. In the short term, some bolts may have to be tightened and, later, the steps flipped to present the unworn side. At some point, the steps will have to be replaced, according to the engineering and historical preservation standards in effect at the time. This topic will be included in the NTC report to the selectboard and planning commission.
- Schmidt Bog—Hubbard suggested that this is a valuable community natural resource and proposed that its status and future be addressed at an upcoming Norwich Conservation Commission meeting. Flanders recommended that the outcome of that discussion should determine whether the NTC devotes volunteer resources to the area.
- Woody Adams parcel—Williams questioned what access enhancements and signage were needed.

Hubbard suggested that each proposed project be scoped for the amount of work required and the resulting roster be assessed for prioritization within the capabilities of the volunteers. Swenson emphasized that the town manager should be kept apprised of proposed projects, especially those where permitting or town property were involved.

7. Update on kiosk construction—Flanders volunteered to send Faughnan a list of kiosks, yet to be built to enable him to purchase the required materials before the end of the 2021-22 fiscal year in June.

Financial

8. Funding needed for 2022 trail infrastructure projects and sources to apply to: Hubbard advised that the FY 2022-23 budget includes \$2,750 for trails. A Women’s Club Grant will cover the cost of the remaining bridge replacement on the Ballard Trail. No other budgetary requirements were identified for grant funding in the upcoming season.
9. Update on Women’s Club grant for kiosk signage: Flanders reported that:
 - He needed approval for the proposed signs, presented in the discussion material, in order to purchase them in time for the March 31 Women’s Club grant program deadline.
 - The Happy Hill and Cossingham Trail kiosks depict trails within the Appalachian Trail Corridor, yet to be approved by the USFS. He proposed follow-up with Chris Mattrick, the USFS representative.
 - The grant includes lumber material for signage, which he volunteered to purchase and store.

Other

10. Update on Happy Hill turnaround: A response to town manager, Rod Francis, regarding his thoughts on how to allow for trail parking without conflicting with town operations. Hubbard and Williams authorized Layne to finalize his draft response and send a copy to the selectboard to keep it in the loop.
11. Appalachian Trail Corridor: No communication has been received from the USFS.
12. Memos to Selectboard: Discussion was postponed for the April meeting
- Trails overview—A memo to the Norwich Selectboard and the Norwich Planning Commission may have some additional topics developed.
 - Burton Woods Road load limit—An alternative to reclassification as a trail.

13. Items for April meeting

- Trails overview
- Burton Woods Road load limit •

Betty Booth Trail

- Schmidt Bog
- Gile Mountain Tower
- Future website map formats

14. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:25

Minutes

Norwich Trails Committee and volunteers monthly meeting

7 pm, February 2, 2022

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651305884>

Attendees: (all by Zoom)

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

Volunteers and members of the public: Roger Arnold, Jay Benson, George Clark, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskens, Stephen Flanders (scribe), Peter Griggs, Nick Krembs (facilitator), Sean Ogle, Peter Orner, Andrew Scherer, Pamela Smith, Brie Swenson and Doug Wilberding **AGENDA**

1. Approval of agenda: Krembs called the meeting to order at 7 pm. No changes in the agenda were suggested.

2. Comments from those present:

- Wilberding inquired about the genesis of the VELCO right of way (ROW) on the Woody Adams parcel and the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) role in it. He also asked about a Department of Justice (DOJ) complaint about American Disabilities Act compliance, regarding Norwich Trails.
 - Layne explained how the UVLT acquired the parcel and is transferring it to the town; that the UVLT granted VELCO a replacement access to the right-of-way from Turnpike Road that avoids a stream and riparian forest; and that the parties are finalizing language, regarding the easement.
 - Krembs said that he was unaware of any DOJ complaint.

• Orner inquired about the status of the pedestrian verge that connected Moore Lane to Ballard Park and now has fallen into disrepair. He emphasized that the crossing to the Ballard Park entrance is dangerous without benefit of a crosswalk or working radar sign. **Guest**

3. Roger Arnold, selectboard chair, to exchange perspectives with subcommittee and volunteers:

- Arnold was invited to speak on the value of trails to Norwich residents, how they should be managed, orderly budgeting of trail maintenance, strategy for trailhead parking, website utility, and on Burton Woods Road.
- Arnold suggested that the selectboard wasn't very familiar with the town's trail network or how it is managed. He felt that the network should be coordinated in a manner consistent with a revised town master plan. He saw the need for greater coordination with town staff. He suggested that the planning phase was part of a "go slow now, to go fast later" strategy to develop a smoothly running process.
- He heard concerns that the committee and its volunteers were interested in taking care of what already exists. He indicated that the selectboard would be receptive to an annual budgetary request that described the combined roles for taxpayer and grant funding of upcoming projects. He suggested that budgetary needs should be placed against specific projects, rather than arising out of a fixed annual allotment of funds.

- He heard concern that relying on town staff to write grant proposals would be unnecessarily burdensome to the staff and that the past practice of volunteers drafting grant proposals for the review and approval by the town manager was a successful model.
- He praised the design and function of the [Norwich Trails website](#), but suggested that there might be a rationale to integrate it with the town's website.
- Regarding Gile Mountain Parking, Arnold acknowledged the past work of the committee and its volunteers in laying groundwork for planning an expansion. He explained that the selectboard had allotted funds for the planning department to carry out a study to define the need for such an expansion.
- Regarding Burton Woods Road, he said that the next selectboard, which convenes in March, would be receptive to a revised memo on the topic, based on Vermont League of Cities and Towns guidance that the goals expressed by the NTC can be achieved with a change in ordinance without the need to reclassify the ROW as a trail. He asked that any other requests for a change of ordinance be included at the same time.

Infrastructure

4. Update from the UVTA:¹

- Ogle reported repair of a bridge on the King Arthur Baking Company trail. He has taken the Gile Mountain counter down for maintenance. The UVTA will be reviewing and prioritizing projects for Norwich trails in March.
- Krembs explained that the UVTA receives funding by warrant article to coordinate volunteer participation in the upkeep of Norwich Trails in coordination with the NTC.

5. Reports on recent trail blockages and actions taken or planned:

- Flanders reported two downed trees on the Appalachian Trail, leading from the Elm Street trailhead.
- Swenson reported a downed tree on the Hazen trail.
- Faughnan and Fisker reported having cleared a tree on the Ballard Trail.

6. Trail projects for 2022:

- May Schmidt Bog:
 - Flanders summarized Layne's report of encroachment on the town-owned bog property, suggesting that it was a town-manager issue. He wondered whether the bog was still a valued destination, given the infestation of buckthorn.
 - Benson reported that there continue to be school trips and other visitors that come to admire the lady slipper colonies present in the bog.
 - The consensus was that the Conservation Commission should decide any action, regarding the buckthorn infestation, and that trails volunteers should do an assessment of the condition of the boardwalk with an eye to maintenance or replacement.
- Others: Krembs solicited other ideas for upcoming projects to be discussed in March.
 - Faughnan identified 50 feet of treadway that needs replacement on Gile Mountain.
 - The damage from the vehicle encroachment on the Parcel 5 trails will require

¹ Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Norwich Trails

assessment and possible repairs.

- o The wet area on the Brown Schoolhouse Road, above the bridge, would benefit from improvement.

7. Update on Happy Hill turnaround:

- Flanders informed Arnold that the NTC was not requesting a change in ordinance, just a change in signage, which has not been acted on at this stage.

8. Appalachian Trail Corridor: Report status of communication with USFS.

- No communication has been received.

Financial

9. Funding needed for 2022 trail infrastructure and sources to apply for:

- This discussion was deferred to March.

10. Update on Women's Club grant for kiosk signage:

- Cody reported that the Norwich Women's Club expects a report by April 1 on expenditures, requiring reimbursement.

• Flanders reported that the kiosk signage has cost \$, to date and that the remaining signage is awaiting updates from the USFS, regarding the Appalachian Trail Corridor. **Other**

11. Items for March meeting:

- Revised Burton Woods memo
- Continued discussion of planned projects
- Follow-up on Happy Hill turnaround
- Update on Appalachian Trail corridor decision from USFS
- Grant funding needed for trail infrastructure
- Report on Women's Club grant funding of kiosk signage and other projects.

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes of the Norwich Trails Committee for December 6, 2017

Present: James Allen, George Clark, Gered Dunne, Jim Faughnan, Bob Fiskin, Peter Griggs, Doug Hardy, Nick Krembs, Bill Mlacak, Gerry Plummer, Cathy Redpath, Brie Swenson, Liz Russell

A reroute of the Blue Ribbon Trail, related drainage work, and work on the Gile Mountain bike trail were all completed in a November 4 work session. In work completed since the November 1 meeting, the Ballard Trail and the trail along Brownschoolhouse Road have been cleared of numerous fallen trees. The Ballard Trail presently has extensive muddy sections. Bridges on the Ballard Trail can be very slippery when wet, a condition also to be found on the Schmidt Bog boardwalk. Hikers should use care on such wooden surfaces as well as on the long stone stairs on the southern part of the Ballard Trail.

There was a brief discussion about leaves on bridges with the suggestion that leaves where present be removed at least once per year.

The Cossingham Road Farm Trails were reported to be in good condition as were Parcel 5 trail and most of the Burton Woods Road trail.

A report from Doug Brown noted that the Tails on Trails fundraising event at Brookmead on November 25 raised over \$500 for the purchase of dog waste stations and bags. The stations have been ordered, and it is hoped that they can be installed soon.

Sean Ogle provided counter data from the Gile Mountain Trail showing heavy use in June followed by much reduced, but then unauthorized, use in subsequent months. The Gile Mountain Trail remains closed until further notice, and the unpaved part of Turnpike Road remains closed to all except local residents.

At last report, four locations on the Blue Ribbon Trail were blocked by fallen trees needing chain saw work.

Gerry Plummer reported on the latest meeting, immediately before the Trails Committee meeting, of the signage subcommittee. Among priority tasks is an inventory of signage. Trail users are invited to submit photographs of existing signs and kiosks at identified sites either to Gerry Plummer or other members of the signage subcommittee. Suggestions as to locations needing new signs or trailhead kiosks will be welcome. The subcommittee will consider the kinds of signs needed with a uniformity in appearance as one objective. The subcommittee will also consider other sign-related matters including how to standardize agreements with landowners.

At a Selectboard meeting on November 29, Brie Swenson discussed the trail now being prepared from Main Street towards the Dresden playing fields. This work was subsequently discussed in an article in the Valley News and on Vermont Public Radio. At the present meeting, she provided additional details on the progress on that trail.

Brie Swenson reported that a "lantern walk" is to be held at the Milton Frye Nature Area from 4:30 to 5:30 PM on December 7. This is to be followed by a film on outdoor education for kindergarten at 6 PM in the Marion Cross School.

Committee members in turn commented on the activities of the committee during 2017 with suggestions for matters needing future attention. Included were suggestions for additional trails, upgrading of certain existing trails, and improved communications with land owners.

Bill Mlacak of the Hanover Trails Committee gave an excellent presentation on the organization and activities of that group. He answered numerous questions enabling a useful comparison of trail procedures in Hanover with those of Norwich. The Norwich Trails Committee very much appreciated his presentation.

Respectfully submitted,
George Clark