



TOWN OF NORFOLK
Rails to Trails Committee

Mission

"To develop a multiple use handicapped accessible trail through Norfolk utilizing part of the existing railroad bed."

Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025

Meeting held at Norfolk Town Hall

Committee members present: Bob Gilchrest, Michelle Childs, Matt Riiska, Erick Olsen, Andra Moss

Meeting Called to Order: 6:04 p.m.

Minutes: Due to a mix-up, the meeting minutes from the May meeting were not available. They will be made available at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer was not in attendance.

CCAP Gravel Ride Norbrook Brewery: On May 31 Bob Gilchrist and Matt Riiska set up a tent and sat in the pouring rain at Norbrook Brewery to inform participants in the CCAP Gravel Ride about the Tour de Forest. Unfortunately, due to the rain the number of participants was quite low. However, they met the ride Director, who was very positive about TdF and said they would help promote it. BG will send the TdF information to CCAP for distribution.

North Brook Trail Project Permitting/Bidding: After having submitted the 4th quarterly report, BG finally heard from Lindsey Surh, director of land management, who wrote to say that she was sorry that nothing has been forthcoming, and that she would coordinate things further and get back to him. BG reported that it has been one year and a week from the date that he had submitted for the necessary permit. As so much time has passed, the physical landscape has changed at the site. BG says that we may have to increase the length of the boardwalk to 275 feet. Also, as the beaver pond has grown, the water level has gone up by at least a foot, requiring raising the trail from 12" to 18" high. BG has drafted new plans that he, with the Committee's support, will proactively submit. He would like to also go out for bids for the whole package in order to price the project and understand various costs as they would now stand.

Tour de Forest 2025 Planning: The Saturday, Oct. 18 event is posted on Bike Reg: <https://www.bikereg.com/norfolk-ct-tour-de-forest>. BG has created a 2025 logo and map with updated QR code that he will distribute via email to everyone on the committee.

He is also printing flyers at Staples. Anyone who can should post them at bike shops, etc. His sister has said that she will post them in her Brookfield, CT area. It was decided that lawn signs would be printed in July so that they could be placed in August in visible areas of other towns. Andra will check that the event is posted on the town website calendar. It is believed that West Lowe was planning to get in touch with Berkshire Bike & Board re

sponsorship of the TdF. There may be some plans (Gary?) to make a video, but that status is not known.

WIN Weekend: Andra will coordinate with Sue Frisch to add some Norfolk bike ride maps to the town website. We may lead an e-bike+bike ride one morning of WIN Weekend. TBD.

Open Discussion: BG noted in New Business that the Norfolk R2T Committee is officially 10 years old! The first meeting of the Committee was in June 2015.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. Motion, MC, Second AM.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 10, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Andra Moss, Member