

Bristol Town Administrator

From: Bristol Town Administrator
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 5:22 PM
To: Kristen Underwood; Porter Knight
Cc: mperlee@langrock.com; Town of Bristol; Eric Cota ; Joel Bouvier; Peeker Heffernan; pcoffey@gmavt.net; Michelle Perlee; Joel Bouvier ; Bristol Clerk
Subject: Re: safety issue at Memorial Forest Park

Thank you Kristen and Porter for bringing this to our attention. I would support and encourage whatever safety measures need to be taken as soon as possible.

—Valerie

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From: Kristen Underwood <southmountain@gmavt.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 1:28 PM
To: Bristol Town Administrator; Town of Bristol; mperlee@langrock.com
Cc: Porter Knight
Subject: safety issue at Memorial Forest Park

Hi Valerie,

And cc'g Jen and Michelle Perlee (since I think Valerie is still on vacation).

Porter Knight and I did a site visit at Memorial Forest Park today to orient a team of UVM senior engineering students, who are doing a yearlong design project that may include looking at alternatives for trails / bridge at Memorial Forest Park.

We noted that the condition of the wooden stairs has deteriorated further in recent weeks. A small-diameter tree fell into the gorge, and torqued the stairs a bit when its root ball became dislodged from the cliff. And the top landing of the stairway has now become separated from its "foundation" on one end. (Porter will send pictures).

This is a significant safety issue, and our recommendation is to close access to the stairs ASAP and remove the stairs altogether. We can mobilize the Conservation Commission and members of the Bristol Trail Network to accomplish this – hopefully in the next two weeks.

We also recommend closing access to the bridge from the east side to discourage folks from scrambling down the steep bank to make their way around the removed stairs.

Hopefully, with help from the senior design team, as well as pending grant funds, we can eventually reopen access to the gorge in a safe way.

Thanks,
Kristen

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