

- Town Commons Committee Minutes from January 19th, 2022:
 - Call to Order at 5:06pm
 - In Attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Blaine Moore (secretary), Mark Fochesato, Jym St. Pierre, Fred Koerber, Dennis Wilson (town parks & facilities manager)
 - Ongoing Projects:
 - Discussion of Brochure Redesign
 - We have all the content we need from the signs, but need to distill it down to what will fit in a brochure.
 - Jeremy will create a rough draft and send out to the committee for review.
 - Bowdoin students began an invasive species mapping project
 - Progress went well until Bowdoin went onto break.
 - They will begin again when they return from break (delayed by a week as the school is virtual this week.)
 - Pitch Pine Restoration
 - Progress has been made, we met last month to learn to tell the difference between white pine and pitch pine to pull out the white pine.
 - Reminder to let Dennis know if anybody goes out to pull white pine so Dennis is aware if he receives any complaints.
 - Discussed an invasive beetle that attacks pitch pine, so monitor for sawdust as they are tiny bugs. More info: [Southern Pine Beetle in York County](#)
 - There is a pheromone trap you can use to test for them, they emerge usually in the May/June/July time frame. If the traps attract some, you want to remove them immediately to avoid attracting more.
 - There is no treatment on a large scale, but on a small scale we can do micro-injection into individual trees.
 - Dennis will be doing more research to see what options are available, and in the meantime we'll just have to keep an eye out for signs.
 - Trail Signs
 - Discussion if we want to start repairing and replacing some signs as they fall down, or should we wait until we have made some determinations of what signs we want and what styles we are going to want.
 - There is no town wide policy for how trail signs need to be constructed.

- Mark will look up some standards used by local, state, and national parks for inspiration on standards.
 - We will wait to replace signs until we have decided on the standards we want to use.
- Revised Charge for Town Commons
 - Jeremy emailed the Town Council and expressed concerns about how the process happened.
 - Dennis will send the revised and original charge so we can compare and make comments to the Town Council.
 - Fred pointed out that our committee operates a little differently than average town committees.
 - Councilor Walker had mentioned in the Town Council meeting that we may want to try to combine the reclaimed lands across Harpswell Road with the lands that the Town Commons Committee is in charge of.
 - Fred recommends we consider having members of the committee from relevant local constituents for voices on the committee, such as a Bowdoin student representative, someone from the Conservation Commission so we are aware of conservation happening elsewhere in town and maintaining consistency, etc.
 - We may need to request that we be allowed more than 7 members on the committee.
 - An alternative could be to create a "citizen's committee" where people could volunteer to be contacted for specific events such as cleanup days but not necessarily voting members of the Town Commons Committee. "Friends of the Commons"
 - Do we need to remove the separation of the various pieces of the Town Commons since most users don't consider the various pieces as separate pieces of properties.
 - The Navy leaving relatively recently (and ongoing) provides a good opportunity for reclaiming and combining more of the original Town Commons.
 - Not only in need of a revised charge, but we need an updated management plan as well.
 - Jym and Jeremy will draft up a proposal to send to the Town Council to inform them of our discussion and will then send it to the committee for approval first.
- Trail Usage, Maintenance, and Management

- Mark provided an update for his mapping efforts
- Green are existing trails, red are non-sanctioned trails
- Next step is to convert to a Google Doc with each of us having edit access so that we can collaborate to fill in the trail information
- We should schedule a meeting in February to discuss in more detail.
- Budget
 - The February meeting would be a good time to discuss the budget.
 - We are halfway through our budget cycle at this time. \$5240 remaining in the budget, end of the fiscal year is June 30.
 - Dennis will double check that the picnic table was part of last year's budget.
 - We may want to earmark some of this year's budget for consulting assistance towards creating a new management plan.
- Next meeting will be on or near February 16th, 2022 at 5pm pending a schedule check over email with all committee members.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm