

Town Commons Committee Minutes for March 15, 2023:

- Call to order at 5:06pm
- In Attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Blaine Moore, Jym St. Pierre, Fred Koerber, Dennis Wilson
- 2023-24 Budget Request: No updates, budget discussions begin on March 16 and should know more by mid-May.
- Grant Applications:
 - Fred suggests that somebody take the lead and track due dates and requirements for the various applications (such as the Davis Fund) to make it easier to apply for them and to coordinate with other town committees and departments to avoid competing for the same funds.
 - Jeremy suggests that we prioritize where we already have projects since are a little "under staffed" and current membership doesn't have the bandwidth to take on new projects.
- New Member Recruitment:
 - We are responsible to find new committee members, the town only handles the interviews and appointments.
 - Dennis needs to update the website for our open positions.
 - Personal relationships are our best recruitment strategy.
 - Dennis will try to find a contact for us for the Greater Commons volunteer group.
 - Meetings are open to the public; interested parties should be invited to attend to see if they'd be interested in joining the committee.
 - We can create videos and post info to the town's facebook page to try to drum up some interest, and potentially add videos to TV3.
 - We need to continue to get interest in local papers to run articles about the Town Commons and to mention that there are open positions available on the committee.
- Chestnut and Pitch Pine restoration is ongoing and will probably end for the season at the end of the month. Jym, Jeremy, and Becca spent one session pulling saplings. We will keep an eye out for the chestnut sapling sale again this year.
- Anna Smith from the DEP will check the vernal pools on the new trails (points 24-29) to determine which permits we will be required to apply for in order to adopt these trails. Weather-dependent will schedule some time in April or May.
- No permits are required for the bog bridging project unless we go over an acre of coverage.
 - Current estimate is that we will be covering less than half an acre so it still falls under trail maintenance.
 - Storage is all set for us to acquire our remaining budget's worth of materials.
- The brochures need to be replenished in the kiosk. Trash is typically emptied 3 times per week this time of year, and will begin being emptied daily as the weather warms up.
- The dead tricentennial tree is scheduled to be replaced in May.
- Mark sent in a proposal for names for the new trails we may potentially adopt:
 - Landing Connector (points 24-25-26)
 - Vernal Loop (points 25-27-28-27)
 - Vernal Extension (points 28-29)
- Dump cleanup is postponed due to snow cover.
- Dennis will get a town waiver for spraying poison ivy patches in May or June.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

