

Town Commons Committee Minutes From March 23, 2022:

- In attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (Chair), Blaine Moore, Amy Brewer, Fred Koerber, Jym St. Pierre, Mark Fochesato, Dennis Wilson
- Call to order at 5:32pm
- Current Projects:
 - New brochures are moving along, we should have an update within a few weeks
 - Invasive species project will resume again this Spring
 - Pitch Pine restoration is done for the season, and we made some good progress this season and will return to it next Winter.
- Revised Charge for Town Commons Committee:
 - Jeremy sent a draft with recommended changes ahead of time.
 - His draft changes include language that we are stewards of the Town Commons
 - Recommended that the committee be made up of up to 9 people.
 - Dennis needs to look up whether or not we can legally support sub-committees with non-voting members of the public.
 - Draft includes language for a majority versus a quorum to ensure that we can operate if we don't have 9 members of the committee at a given time.
 - Added facilitating a formal management plan review every 10 years.
 - There needs to be more collaboration and coordination between the property around the Town Commons that becomes available to the town and to view the Greater Commons as more of a cohesive unit as humans are the only ones who acknowledge boundaries.
 - Fred embraces coordination but full management of any land outside of the original Town Commons from the proprietors is outside of the scope of this committee and should be managed by the Parks & Rec department and Conservation Commission.
 - Focus should be on the coordination, and should encompass adjoining trails and other land.
 - 144 acres across Harpswell Road is still under negotiation and is not under town possession yet, if and when it is transferred it will be conserved but there have been no decisions yet on who will manage that parcel of land.
 - Fred would like to see a max of 12 members of the committee and to include representation from students at Bowdoin College, potentially in 1-year terms and not requiring that they necessarily be a Brunswick resident.

- We could create an internal email list of interested stakeholders that we could send information regularly and have periodic trail maintenance days, etc.
- Blaine recommended that we have a maximum of 10 members with a 1-year term reserved for a Bowdoin Student running along the September to August calendar year (rather than the March to February schedule for the rest of the committee.)
- We may wish to request a council liaison.
- Jym suggested that we have a similar reserved spot for a Brunswick High School student (max of 11 members in that case), but Dennis would have to look to see if there is an age limit for town committees. We would also want to specify whether the student needs to be a Brunswick resident or attends a High School in Brunswick.
- Trail Usage, Maintenance, and Management:
 - Mark described the latest draft of the trail mapping catalog and called for comments in his spreadsheet he passed around.
 - Mark also passed around some documents with signage guidance from a few different organizations for us to consider.
 - Proposed that we meet in late April or May as a group at the Town Commons to walk the trails and discuss.
- Budget: Not discussed.
- General Maintenance Priority Items: Not discussed.
- Other Business:
 - Dennis reported that somebody is cleaning/raking/leaf blowing the trails without permission and it is eroding the trails and we would like to find out who is doing it and bring it to the town's attention. This happened 2 years ago and was just reported again this morning.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm