

## Town Commons Committee Minutes for April 19, 2023:

- Call to order at 5:06pm
- In Attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Blaine Moore, Jym St. Pierre, Fred Koerber, Mark Fochesato, Amy Brewer, Dennis Wilson
- Meeting Schedule: What is the best day of week for regular meetings?
  - Answers ranged from Tuesday to no preference.
  - Jeremy proposed we meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5pm, to be determined each month if a meeting is necessary.
- Budget proposal update: our request is still in as of the 1st round. We will have a better idea in mid/late May.
- Spring Clean-Up Day:
  - The trails are in decent shape with Earth Day on April 22, National Trail Day on June 6, and the last day of classes on May 10. The committee had good availability for May 6.
  - Scheduled our clean-up day for May 6 from 9am to noon.
- Trail Usage Proposals:
  - Possible Trail Names:
    - Johnny's Trail to Harpswell Rd: Landing Connector
    - Lollipop: Vernal Loop or Vernal Connector
    - Possibly naming a trail after Priscilla Davis after her 40+ years of service (Davis Loop or Priscilla's Trail?), whether one of these new trails if we adopt them or the the bog trail.
    - Keep or add names will still color coding the trails but not naming the trails after the colors.
    - Aim for consistency in trail naming and marking all the way from the neighborhoods down to Middle Bay Rd.
  - DEP will check on vernal pools in the area soon and if there are significant vernal pools it will add complexity and expense to the application process.
  - Does the Greater Commons need to be combined with the Town Commons committee now that that land has been available for the last 20+ years so that there is single management?
    - Problem involves how the land was purchased and deeded to the town that restrict how it is managed.
    - Future discussions could and should include the 144 acres east of Harpswell Rd.
  - From a town perspective, blazes are preferable to placards for trail marking.
  - Proposal we submitted last Fall about pedestrian-only trails has not been addressed by the Town Council yet.
  - The committee will be providing an update to the Town Council on June 20th. Any good Town Commons photos should be forwarded to Jeremy for inclusion.
- New Member Recruitment:
  - Some applications are incoming but still need to continue reaching out.
  - Friends of the Commons:
    - Create a database of people who are interested in updates and trail days.
    - This would be a working group and not a subcommittee.
    - For legal purposes, Dennis would need to be in charge of managing the list on a town computer.
    - Could also be used to let folks know about events like the youth bike classes and Blaine's running history tour from the previous weekend.

- Mark recalled an orienteering class that could be brought back from 15 years ago.
  - To put events on, we would need to fill out facility use forms for the town and a separate one for the rec department.
  - The rec department will be letting the committee know of any other events going forward.
- Other Business:
  - Brochures need to be replenished
  - Chestnuts: as of the meeting we had not heard from the arboretum if they would be available this year but expect to hear from them in early May.
  - Poison Ivy: Dennis will be applying for a chemical waiver to spray around the end of May.
  - The Davis Fund application deadline is the following Thursday at 5pm.
  - Can the plaque be removed from the rock and put on Monument E?
  - Monument F has been found. Monument H is mismarked. Fred has Monument B but it is on it's side. Both Monuments A & B have been previously replaced.
  - The 144 acres across Harpswell Rd. are still owned by the Navy and the goat trails that were created were done without permission.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.