

Town Commons Meeting Minutes for September 20, 2022:

- In attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Blaine Moore, Jym St. Pierre, Mark Fochesato, Dennis Wilson, Fred Koerber
- Called to order at 5:03pm
- Current Projects:
 - Fall Clean-Up Day
 - Scheduling has been difficult amongst the committee.
 - Trails are in good shape, cutbacks from last fall are still good, some signs need to be put in place.
 - There is trash to pickup along the road.
 - Schedule to meet at 3:00pm on Friday, October 21st, for about 60-90 minutes.
 - Trail Usage Proposal to the Council
 - Getting state inspectors out is difficult
 - There's only one section of the trail that is triggering the permit process for one stream crossing
 - Ideally we'll only need a minor permit but still waiting to hear back
 - Committee will need to carve out a little time to look over the proposal and provide feedback by the end of next week (September 30).
Download link is a large word
document: <https://www.dropbox.com/t/GDNjGKketQuNlabh>
- Budget:
 - Bog Bridging
 - \$300 per 5 linear feet at 36 inches wide with diagonal boards for the current project at the Kate Furbish Preserve

- Recent example from Kate Furbish:



- Dennis estimated we are between 200 and 300 linear feet but it's hard to tell right now with everything dried up
 - We will not need permits as long as we keep everything low profile
 - If we shrink to 24 inches wide, and cut boards longitudinally instead of diagonally, we will need fewer materials
 - We should set a budget for how much we want to spend in the next year, buy the materials, and then request more for the budget next year to complete the project
 - Bog bridges need to be free floating, we can not secure the bridge to the ground or disturb the soil, water needs to be able to flow freely below or above the bridging
 - Jeremy motioned that we reserve the rest of our budget for this year on purchasing materials, Fred seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - Dennis expects that work may be able to begin in late November or early December.
 - Priority should be on building where rogue trails are appearing and where the water tends to be deepest.
 - We can block rogue trails with any debris that is physically on the ground but can not cut anything fresh.
 - Dennis will send Jeremy a list of supplies and specifications and Jeremy will try to find some donations or better pricing through some connections he has.
- Other Topics
 - Chestnuts:

- The chestnuts are dropping, and while there is no foraging allowed by the public, Dennis has requested that we as the Town Commons Committee collect the nuts so they can be germinated in the nursery.
- Alternatively, if the nuts are spotted near the trail, they can be tossed further back from the trail to avoid having them foraged by others.
- As of 3 weeks ago, the chestnuts we planted were mostly looking as though they were taking. (The goal is to get 5 out of the 20 to succeed.)
- This winter, when clearing the pitch pines, we also want to clear around the chestnut saplings.
- Please keep an eye out for trails being cleared of leaf litter, and let the town know if somebody is out there with a rake or leaf blower.
- The codes office just sent out a citation for \$15,000 to replace 35 trees that were removed illegally from the Town Commons by a homeowner.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 22nd at 5pm.
- Adjourned at 5:48pm