

Here are tonight's minutes for January 28, 2025:

- Call to Order at 5:05pm
- In Attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Mark Fochesato, Blaine Moore, Michael Halmo, Jym St. Pierre, Dennis Wilson (town arborist), Timothy Carr, Nathaniel Shed (Town Council), Ted Wright
- Reminder: Committee members need to sign the acknowledgement form at the back of the Town Committee handbook and return to the town clerk. (This only needs to be done once, unless and until the committee handbook changes.)
- **MOTION:** Jym nominated a slate for Jeremy as chair, Mark as vice chair, and Blaine as secretary for the next year. No further discussion. Tim seconded; slate **passed unanimously.**
- Town Commons committee positions are staggered in multi-year terms. This year:
 - Applications are due by February 7.
 - Appointments Committee interviews will be on February 10.
 - New terms will start on March 1.
 - Jym, Ted, and Jeremy are up for renewal this year.
- Clarification on the committee charge: The language calls for a quorum based on the current active members on the committee, and *not* based on the maximum number of members.
- Note: town emails now end in .gov as of the last month or two, but emails sent to the .org addresses will be forwarded appropriately.
- Pitch Pine Management:
 - Conditions have improved this year; at least 2" of snow and temperatures below freezing are required.
 - If anybody plans to get out to prune trees, we should email Dennis ahead of time so that he knows who is out there if anybody calls to inform the town after seeing us.
 - We will meet Dennis on Thursday, February 6, at 3pm to work as a group and get a refresher on what should be removed and what should be left. Hand snips or loppers can be used, but nothing larger.
- Bog Bridging is complete, with the exception of repairs needed in the Spring. There are enough materials left over for approximately 1 year of replacement materials.
- Budget:
 - Dennis will confirm what is remaining; it should be approximately \$2500.
 - The island redesign in the Spring will account for most of this year's remaining budget.
 - Any additional budget remaining after the island redesign could be spent towards:
 - Posts for future sign updates
 - Materials for additional benches
 - Mixed hardwood mulch chips for Johnny's Trail where it floods
 - Purchasing more chestnut trees (approximately \$400)
 - Trail number signs

- For a future budget, we may want to look into getting an updated Natural Resource Inventory/Management Plan created. This would probably require approximately \$3k-\$5k, and may need to wait for a few years. There *is* a plan for the entire town as part of the Climate Action Plan in the 5-10 year window.
 - Remaining budget for this fiscal year and new budget for next fiscal year will be decided at our February meeting.
- Pamphlets: Dennis will print a few hundred new pamphlets and organize a time when we can join him to help fold them.
- Bowdoin College will be presenting this year to town committees to educate about their new management plan for Bowdoin Pines.
- Mark mentioned a potential accessibility assessment that we could get for our trails.
- Trail Mapping: Mark, Dennis, and Jeremy walked the trails to assess where we can adopt, block, or build new trails for connectivity and access throughout the Town Commons.
- Adoption of Goat Trails: The DEP has assigned somebody new to our case and Dennis has made contact. She will be out in the Spring for an assessment of a vernal pool in the April/May timeframe, and we can expect the state report by the end of May.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 5pm at Town Hall.
- Meeting Adjourned at 6:06pm.