

- In Attendance: Jeremy Litchfield (chair), Blaine Moore (secretary), Mark Fochesato (vice-chair), Jym St. Pierre, Ted Wright, Caleb Chang, Mike Ferry, Tim Carr, Bobin Park, Nat Shed (town council), Dennis Wilson (town arborist)
- Call to Order: 5:00pm
- Quarterly Newsletter:
  - August/Summer newsletter draft was reviewed
  - Jym will contribute a history/trivia tidbit, and a photo to replace the sign photo with a seasonal photo
  - We will add a link or QR code to signup for the Maine Primitive registration along with the date and time.
  - We will replace the trail mapping section with an island redesign completion section.
  - We determined not to include the names of participants from the Spring cleanup day since not everybody is on the committee.
- Maine Primitive:
  - Scheduled for September 25 at 5pm.
  - We need to setup a Google Form registration link for people to signup.
  - We will limit it to committee members plus 12 other attendees; if more signup then they'll go on a wait list.
  - If we get a lot of interest, we may offer it at two times (4pm/5pm or 4:30pm/5:30pm instead of 5pm).
- 2024-2025 Budget:
  - Island Redesign is complete. (Photo will be included in Summer newsletter.)
  - The chestnuts are not doing well with the heat and are in the town's nursery. Dennis may purchase more if they are not plantable.
  - The remaining budget was spent on the posts.
- Bowdoin College GIS Mapping Class:
  - Could be a good opportunity to partner with them as part of our management plan update.
  - There is also a separate 2-day class in the Summer.
  - Tim and Nat will reach out to Professor Johnson, and Bobin will reach out to the Summer class coordinators.
- Trail Mapping:
  - The committee version is in the town's hands and will be worked on shortly for a more professional version.
  - No hard date yet for when it will be completed, but ideally before our August meeting.
  - The new brochure is ready (and has been for a while) and can be printed once we have a new trail map to include on it.
- August Meeting: Rescheduled for August 26 (originally August 19) to provide more time for the trail map and for better committee attendance.
- Goat Trail Adoption: DEP has been out 2-3 times, but has not sent any updates yet.
- Trail Funding Opportunities:
  - The town has somebody who regularly works on a lot of grants, but no dedicated grant writer.

- We should begin keeping a spreadsheet for potential grants we may want to apply for to keep that information easily accessible when we are ready to work on new projects.
- Eventually we can create a working group for pursuing grant opportunities.
- The process for getting a grant is thought to be as follows:
  1. Town Manager's office gives approval for applying for the grant (to ensure there are no conflicting applications elsewhere in the town.)
  2. Committee applies for the grant.
  3. If the grant is awarded, then the Town Council needs to approve the grant before it can be accepted.
- Potential grants to look into and start tracking application deadlines and requirements:
  - Athletic Brewing's "Two for the Trails"
  - National Forest Foundation
  - Project Canopy
  - Land for Maine's Future
  - Davis Fund
- Potential projects could include trail upgrades and adoption, management plan, etc.
- Anything involving projects that extend off of the Town Commons property would need to require buy-in from Parks & Rec (such as for the Greater Commons.)
- 2025-2026 Budget Cycle:
  - \$2500 budget for the upcoming year
  - Existing projects/plans (some for future years not just this budget cycle):
    - Chestnuts
    - New trail signage
    - Trail map redesign (ideally slated as the primary topic for August)
    - Inventory/Management Plan (ideally slated as the primary topic for September) - may split into phased projects over a few years
    - Accessibility assessment
    - General maintenance
    - Goat trail adoption
  - New topics:
    - Wood chips or other trail improvements on Johnny's Trail
    - Potential connections across Harpswell Road for future trails
      - There are still 2 parcels to be transferred from MRRA and/or Navy to the town, hopefully by the end of the year
      - The 144-Acre Committee is already working on building a loop trail with a goal of connecting Gate C to the goat trails if we adopt them.
      - The 144-Acre Committee does not have its meetings televised but does have many local stakeholders as members.
- Meeting Adjourned: 5:54pm