

Fayston Natural Resources Committee

June 9, 2015

Minutes

Present: Lisa Koitzsch, Ned Kelley, Carol Chamberlin, Ky Koitzsch, Stan Button, and Gene Fialkoff

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

Carol: Follow up on Tenney trails, work with Planning Commission on subdivision regulations
Stan: Mow area around McCullough barn, work with Ky on kiosk
Lisa: Get FNRC account balances from Patti Lewis, ask Patti about town mowing, send minutes to John Weir for website
Ky: Follow up with Brett Belknap on sign, work with Stan on kiosk
Ned: Follow up with Fred Gilbert on check for kiosk materials

1. Elections, Treasurer Report, Member Announcement, and Meeting Schedule

Carol moved to approve the continuation of Ned Kelley's term as Treasurer, Ky seconded, all approved.

Lisa moved to approve the continuation of Carol Chamberlin's term as Chair. Stan seconded, all approved.

Stan Button announced that he will resign from FNRC in October 2015. We wish him well and appreciate all the hard work he has contributed. He has graciously agreed to help out throughout the summer. Fred Gilbert will be returning to the Valley on June 11th to continue his rehabilitation. We look forward to having him back on the Committee!

Ned reported that there is \$951.00 in the FNRC town account. \$49.00 was paid to Hartigan Septic Company on May 21st. There is currently a balance of \$28,000 in the Conservation Reserve Fund account after an additional \$5,000 was approved at Town Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7th at the McCullough Barn. The next three meetings will be on August 4th, September 1st, and October 6th.

2. Sign, Kiosk , Bottle Collection, Mowing and Portable Toilet at McCullough Barn

FNRC paid Brett Belknap \$443 in December 2014 for work on a sign for the McCullough Barn. Ky will check in with Brett to determine status of sign's progress. Stan and Ky (hopefully with Fred's help) plan to work on building the three-paneled kiosk for the barn this summer. They will meet at a later date to determine design and construction plans.

The Fayston PTO requested permission to store cardboard boxes for their bottle collection drive in the barn. The Committee denied the request because this might encourage people to dump trash in the barn and broken bottles would be a liability when the Little Otters or any of the Fayston school children use the barn. FNRC, the Town of Fayston, and the Little Otters group each paid 1/3 of the cost to install a portable toilet for three months (June, July and August). The Committee discussed whether this was a fair breakdown of cost since Little Otters is a For Profit organization.

Stan Button has been mowing the area around the McCullough Barn. The Committee discussed whether the Town could take over the mowing in the future. Lisa said she would talk to Patti Lewis and determine if this would be a possibility. Ned Kelley said he would continue his knotweed removal practices.

3. Planning Commission, Property Updates, Watershed Storm Management Project

Carol told the Committee that the Planning Commission is looking at reworking subdivision regulations for the Town and also trying to streamline some of the guidelines. What resources are important to protect? The Committee discussed how FNRC could contribute - wetland information, wildlife corridor delineation, etc. Jamey Fidel will be meeting with the PC in July to discuss some of the alternatives. The committee also discussed driveway lengths and how this affected wildlife habitat connectivity.

The Bragg Farm has begun to produce and sell dairy products (butter, etc.) but does not have its own cows yet. Work continues on updating and building the facilities that are needed. There has been no news on the construction of trails on the Tenney Property and Carol said she would look into this. The Lathrop property off Murphy Road was originally in contention when True North wanted to purchase it a few years ago. Community members objected to the development of this property and the organization abandoned its bid. The property is now under new ownership and there is a large scale commercial maple sugaring operation in the works with no apparent opposition from the community even though the effect of this current use and development seems to be much more significant than what True North had originally planned.

Friends of the Mad River are spearheading a watershed and storm water management review for the Mad River Valley. They are working on a Best Practices Manual that will include catch basins in ski areas and grass strips along river banks in agricultural areas.

4. Plans and Goals for Summer 2015

Develop kiosk – three panels: map, history of barn, wildlife/plants/trees of Chase Brook

Work on Trail Map of Chase Brook Town Forest for kiosk – Cory, Mad River Path, Mad Riders, Liza Walker

Community Party – September 19th? October 3rd? Possible ideas: barn dance, music, potluck, tent, local beer.

Update Town website with meeting minutes

5. Miscellaneous items

Where are the picnic tables that were in the barn?

Should we talk to Mad Birder's about organizing a walk in the Chase Brook Town Forest?