

Fayston Conservation Committee
January 7, 2019
Minutes

Present: Gene Fialkoff, Ned Kelley, Geri Procaccini, Corrie Miller

Guests: Carol Chamberlin and Shane Mullen

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

Geri: Be in touch with Lisa re: town budget update

Corrie: Look into budget timing and Draft minutes

ALL: Familiarize ourselves with the Fayston Town Plan and Land Use Regulations.
Review Carol Chamberlin's document, when she sends it to us all.
Consider working with Carol on hosting an educational and social "charrette."
Check the "clip" on board outside the Zoning Office for development applications.
Someone needs to volunteer to take minutes at the February 26 meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

- Corrie moved to approve the minutes from our December 2018 meeting, Gene seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

2. Fayston Planning Commission (PC) – Carol Chamberlin

- Geri and Corrie introduced to Carol and Shane that the Commission is considering broadening the ways we advise the Town around natural resources and looking for input about how we might engage with the Planning Commission and Development Review Board towards this end.
- Carol Chamberlin, Fayston Town Planning Commission, gave a PC background and suggested that there are many ways the two boards could work together to advance natural resource planning in our town. She prepared a document (see attached) in which she pulled ideas from the town plan.
- Carol informed us that the (now) 8-year planning cycle is beginning and the PC is beginning the steps to update the Town Plan. The first stage of the Town Plan revision process is a community survey; they are working now to finalize this survey.
- Carol recommended us familiarizing ourselves with the Fayston Town Plan, specifically the Ecology Chapter and the section "Goals and Objectives." The Goals and Objectives section lays out projects that the Planning Commission needs to accomplish and many of these relate to natural resources and could benefit from Conservation Commission involvement.
- Carol drew our attention to a new section that will be required in the updated Town Plan that relates to Forest Blocks and that we may be able to collaborate with the PC on the development of this chapter.
- Carol and the PC is interested in hosting a community charrette ("a social gathering with a purpose") sometime this spring to help people learn about planning. They would be interested in the CC collaborating on this. A first step would be 1-2 CC members join Carol to plan the gathering.

3. Fayston Development Review Board (DRB)

- Shane gave the Commission a summary of the work the DRB does.

- There was discussion that followup after a DRB or Zoning Administrator (ZA) decision is lacking and this may be an area for PC/CC involvement. Corrie mentioned that “enforcement” is one area that Ridge to River research found that most watershed town leadership felt was lacking and an area where they needed support.
- There was a discussion around when the DRB involves and when the ZA is only involved.
- Shane confirmed that DRB meetings are public and that the applications for development are all posted in a “clop” on the bulletin board outside the ZA office.

4. For Local Opportunities (FLO) Local Option Tax (LOT)

- Geri updated the group that she thought, from her communications with Donald Simonini, that the LOT decision was being postponed beyond town meeting. We tabled this discussion with this new information.

5. Budget for Fayston Conservation Commission and Conservation Fund

- Geri shared Lisa’s learning after our last meeting that the Selectboard doesn’t approve of the idea of moving Commission funding (the \$1K) into the Conservation Fund each year.
- We discussed the idea of asking the Selectboard to increase the Conservation Fund budget line in 2019. We were all amenable to the idea, if there was still time. Corrie said she would check on timing.
- We discussed why the Conservation Fund is so important and ideas that came up included: it would allow the town to seize opportunities as they arise; it would allow the town to leverage more state and federal grant dollars; it would decrease the time it took us to seize opportunities and allow us not to have to do lengthy fundraising drives.
- There was general consensus around \$5,000 as an amount that we thought reasonable, based on our goals and our review of other Conservation Fund amounts through the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions (VACC) listserve and the cost of land in the area.
- Gene asked if we should make a motion to make this request to the Selectboard and we tabled it because we didn’t have answers to our questions about the budget timeline. We agreed we could decide via email between meetings if we wanted to move forward.

6. Future Meetings & Minute-Takers

- February 26 at Town office, 7 pm – **Who will take minutes?**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 26th at 7:00 pm at the Fayston Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,
Corrie Miller