

FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 10, 2019
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Lisa Koitzsch, Corrie Miller, Gene Fialkoff, Geri Procaccini

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

Lisa: Contact Brian Voigt about getting the new Chase Brook Trail on the trail map. Flag the new Fred Gilbert Trail and schedule a workday for the public with the FCC. Buy black plastic to tarp the knotweed that has been cut in the Chase Brook parking lot.

Corrie: Look into possible grants to help with the Boyce Hill Community Land Project management plan. Check with Josh Schwartz about obtaining trail count data from Chase Brook.

Geri: Give a report at our next meeting about information regarding the creation of a Fayston Composting plan.

Everyone: Whenever time permits, stop at the McCullough Barn and cut-and-dig Knotweed.

1) **Approval of minutes from the June 12 meeting.**

Corrie moved to approve; Gene seconded; all approved.

2) **Knotweed Removal.**

Corrie recently visited the Warren knotweed compost area that is near the Sugarbush snowmaking pond. The knotweed is cut about a foot from the ground and the cuttings are piled in one section and any roots that have been dug up are piled in a separate section. This is due to the varying rates of decomposition. All discussed removing knotweed from the Chase Brook Town Forest parking area and the idea of taking it to the Warren composting area. Lisa said we need to tend to the Chase Brook knotweed more regularly and taking it to Warren could be one option. Geri and Gene expressed a preference for leaving it in the parking lot near the McCullough Barn. If we do that, Lisa suggested we move the knotweed that has been cut to the right of where it is now in order to help keep it from spreading.

3) **Boyce Road Project.**

Lisa, Gene and Geri attended the Select Board meeting on Tuesday the 9th to show support for the Boyce Road land donation to the Town of Fayston. This meeting was also attended by local landowners whose properties are adjacent to this property. The meeting drew very positive feedback and Jared Cadwell

confirmed that the property is in the process of being transferred from the current owner to the town of Fayston and that the transfer will not occur until at least September. Once the land has been transferred and a Vermont Land Trust easement has been worked out, a series of public meetings will be held by the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to help guide the creation of a management plan for the land. Some of the concerns people had about the land was increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the possible use of motorized vehicles. Many of these details will be worked out in the future. Lisa said that the FCC will help work on an interim management plan soon as one needs to be in place when the property is transferred to the town. Liza Walker of the VLT will help with the interim plan. The final management plan will be driven by the public and will not be completed for at least 6 months to a year after the land has been transferred. Corrie talked about this land becoming a Town Forest and wants to look at what this would entail and what it would actually mean for the management of the parcel. Lisa suggested that the land should only be used from dawn to dusk, similarly to the Scrag Mtn. parcel in Waitsfield. Lisa went through her notes from the SB meeting and said it will be on MRVTV in the next few days. Corrie and Lisa suggested that the SB should write a press release about this land donation and Corrie will contact Liza and the SB to see if this is going to happen. Lisa suggested that the current property name could be changed through the management plan process if people want. The next step in this process is for the Select Board, the FCC, and Phil Huffman of the Waitsfield Conservation Commission to meet and discuss next steps for the management planning process. Jared will schedule that meeting when he returns from vacation.

4) Compost Project.

In July of 2020, food waste will not be allowed to be thrown out with trash in Vermont. Geri has been researching some of the different options that Fayston residents will have to dispose of their food waste. Gene suggested contacting Grow Compost for ideas and possible participation. Corrie takes her kitchen scraps to Grow Compost and deposits them at no cost. Lisa takes her scraps to the Earthwise transfer station for a minimal cost. All agreed that it could be beneficial to have a facility in Fayston or at least a food scrap deposit location. Geri will explore the different possibilities and look into what other towns are doing present the topic at the next meeting.

5) Other Business.

On Saturday, July 13th, from 10 – 11:30AM, there will be a walk and talk

presented by the Nature Conservancy and the Friends of the Mad River about river management, water quality and flood resilience. There is a swim in the river afterward and all are invited.

Corrie reported that she is working with the Vermont Master Naturalist program and Half-Earth to bring the Naturalist program to the Mad River Valley. The program educates 12-15 interested people on everything from the geology of our Valley to the plants and animals that inhabit it. The program is scheduled to go live in March of 2020.

The next FCC meeting will be held at the Fayston Town Hall on Wednesday, August 14, at 7PM.