

FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 5, 2019
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Lisa Koitzsch, Corrie Miller, Geri Procaccini, Gene Fialkoff, Akhil Kaplan, Ned Kelly
Guest Attendees: Alicia Daniel, Vermont Master Naturalist; Curt Lindberg, Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth; Judi Gates; and, Ben and Wendy Bridgewater, Boyce Rd residents.

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

1. **Everyone:** Review the Chase Brook Forest management plan for potential action items. Please send Lisa any thoughts, comments, suggestions.
2. **Akhil:** Talk to Joshua Schwartz about possibly placing a tracker at the Boyce property to obtain an accurate usage count.
3. **Lisa/Corrie:** Work with FCC to develop signage for Boyce Hill Town Forest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrie made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Ned seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Alicia gave an informative presentation of this program - how it works, what the program encompasses related to natural history, geology, ecology, wildlife observation and management, botany and rivers and wetlands. The program will begin March of 2020 for the first time in the Mad River watershed and will include up to 15 participants. Friends of the Mad River and Vermont Alliance for Half-Earth are local partners and Curt Lindberg will be serving as a local coordinator. Details can be found at vermontmasternaturalist.org.

BOYCE PROPERTY PROJECT

The property will be named the Boyce Hill Town Forest. The kiosk and tractor have been removed. Lisa and Corrie, with guidance from the Vermont Land Trust and the Select Board, have completed the draft Interim Management Plan. The transfer of the property is tentatively scheduled for December 10, 2019.

Ben and Wendy Bridgewater raised a concern about winter parking and said traffic has increased since the announcement of the purchase. Lisa will discuss the parking issue with the Select Board.

Corrie and Lisa discovered all but one of the boundary corner survey markers. There was a discussion of scheduling a field trip with the Bridgewaters and the FCC, possibly in the Spring. Ned Kelley and Judy Gates walked the property with Bob Newis, the former owner, who provided some valuable information from his tenure of ownership, which they shared with the Commission.

There was a discussion about managing the land including concerns about best practices for promoting a healthy ecosystem while keeping some views and considering community uses. Further study is needed and will be conducted during the longer-term management planning process, which will be the next year or two.

An interest was expressed by all in learning more about the history of the property.

The next FCC meeting is at the Fayston Town Hall on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 6PM.