

FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 18, 2020
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Corrie Miller, Geri Procaccini, Akhil Kaplan, Ned Kelley, Gene Fialkoff

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

- 1) Everyone:** Keep in mind, before town meeting day on March 3rd, to ask Fayston residents to attend and voice support for the funding that will allow inclusive management planning and long-term stewardship of the Boyce Road Town Forest.
- 2) Everyone:** Become familiar with the Town Meeting Overview document before Town meeting day in order to respond correctly to any questions; if unsure of an answer, refer questions to Corrie.
- 3) Everyone:** Attend town meeting (Commission is meeting at 9 am to set up table) and show and/or voice support for the Fayston Town Forest Reserve Fund request of \$3,500 as well as the Fayston Conservation Commission fund of \$1,000 and the Fayston Conservation Reserve Fund of \$3,500.
- 4) Corrie:** Will reach out to landowners abutting the Boyce Hill Town Forest property prior to town meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Geri moved to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting. Ned seconded, all approved.

Compost Survey Update

Geri gave a brief presentation of the summary she and Akhil had analyzed of the Composting survey posted in Front Porch Forum. There were a total of 91 responses. The results of the survey pointed to a need for more education and workshops related to the regulations taking effect on July 1, 2020; and regarding best composting practices. A possible plan was discussed to contract with Grow Compost to have a pick-up location in Fayston where residents can bring kitchen scraps. Containers and pick-up service would be provided and the cost for two 48-gallon containers is \$38.00 per week, and the number of containers can be adjusted based on need. Future plans will be discussed in more detail at the next FCC meeting. Also, a possible option of having local pig or chicken farmers who might be able to use the scraps collect and dispose of them. Akhil will be in touch with Marble Hill Farm to learn more about opportunity and/or pitfalls.

TOWN MEETING UPDATE:

The date of town meeting will be March 3, 2020 at 9:30AM. Corrie distributed copies of the meeting to all in attendance.

Corrie also distributed drafts of "OVERVIEW of TOWN MEETING CONTENT FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION." The intention of this document was to overview the discussion at Town Meeting related to Boyce Hill Town Forest. The document included the details of the 2 existing conservation funds; and that of the proposed new fund to be included in the 2020 budget - the Town Forest Reserve Fund. This proposed fund is to be used for maintenance and management of town forest lands. This will be a dedicated account that can accumulate year to year, be spent across years, and will allow for private tax deductible donations. An amount of \$7,500 was requested by the FCC based on numbers we had for the consulting work needed for management planning; the SB budgeted \$3,500. The total amount proposed for all conservation-related funds including reserves, management and maintenance, is \$8,000.

Also included are talking points for "Article 3" sharing from CC with Town regarding management planning for the newly acquired Boyce Hill Town Forest, beginning with the interim management plan developed by Corrie and Lisa in 2019, and following through 2021 that will allow time for community input, professional consulting, and the development of a permanent management plan, which could possibly not be finalized until 2022. Corrie stressed the importance of taking the time to include all stakeholders in the process of developing a detailed management plan in order to avoid future problems.

The FCC will host a table at Town Meeting that will provide a map from the VLT including all Fayston Town Forest lands; sign-up sheets for an email list and Boyce Hill TF Steering Committee interest; and copies of the details of the compost survey results with a link to the survey. Geri, Ned, Corrie, and Gene volunteered to share time hosting.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Corrie brought the Commission back to the idea discussed at previous meetings to allow some members - whose interest is mainly in taking care of town properties in a physical way - come off the Commission and join a possible "Stewardship Committee." This would enable us to get more stewardship work done but also fill more seats on the Commission with those who want to dedicate time to meetings and organizing related to Boyce Hill Town Forest. She will request a delay in SB appointments to the FCC until later in the year in order to have time to explore/discuss the new committee and allow Lisa to participate in the process.

Ned has signs ready to be posted at the Boyce Hill property and requires assistance for installation. All FCC members present volunteered to help.

The next FCC meeting will be held at the Fayston Town Hall on April 7, 2020, at 630PM.

*There will be no meeting held in the month of March due to Town Meeting Day.