

FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 21, 2020

Zoom Call

MEETING MINUTES

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

Guests: Ben and Wendy Bridgewater

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

- 1) **Akhil:** Will remove the two fire rings located on the Boyce Hill Forest property.
- 2) **Everyone:** Try to get out (and encourage friends and neighbors to do so as well), using best social distancing practices, and pick up trash along Fayston roadsides. Green-Up day has been postponed until May 30th and foliage may grow and obscure litter.
- 3) **Everyone:** Remove knotweed at the Chase Brook Forest parking lot once it reaches a height of 12", again using best social distancing practices.
- 4) **Akhil:** Contact Dick Jamieson about borrowing publications he may have related to the history of the Boyce Hill property.
- 5) **Lisa:** Provide information to members re: people interested in joining the FCC and Steering Committee from the email list sign up list obtained at Town meeting.
- 6) **Lisa & Corrie:** Draft RFP (Request for Proposals) for Natural Resources / Ecological Inventory at Boyce Hill Town Forest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ned moved to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting. Akhil seconded, all approved, the motion was passed. There was no meeting held in March due to Town Meeting.

BOYCE HILL FOREST PROPERTY:

*Lisa and Ky met with SB member Mike Jordan at the Boyce Hill Town Forest (BHTF) pond regarding an overflow issue. They were able to unclog the out-take pipe using a canoe and 120' feet of PVC pipe. Several ideas were put forth related to best practices to avoid future blockage. Ben suggested installing an overflow spillway, which he said would be relatively easy without compromising the land. Wendy said the pond is about 25 feet deep and does not need much additional maintenance.

*Corrie reached out to the grassland bird habitat coordinator from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies who said that the BHTF was not ideal for grassland birds but could be managed as a healthy shrubland habitat if that was a community value.

*Corrie reported that the Vermont Land Trust will help with an invasive species inventory of the BHTF early this summer.

*Lisa and Corrie are working on an RFP for a Natural Resource Inventory of the BHTF and asked the commission members for any input they might have. They are exploring possible candidates and costs for this project.

*Corrie and Lisa meet next week with the BHTF Steering Committee (FCC, VLT and a Select Board member) to review next steps for expanding membership of the Steering Committee and fundraising for the BHTF. Voters at Town Meeting approved funds in a designated Town Forest Management fund which will allow grants and donations to carry over to the following year.

*Lisa is looking into a Tiny Grant to help with the Natural Resources Inventory.

*Akhil and Ned agreed to remove the fire pits, clean out the cellar hole and remove any trash from the BHTF.

*Lisa expressed an interest in learning about the cultural history of the property. Wendy stated that Dick Jamieson has books that could be helpful; Akhil will contact him. In addition, Huguette Abbott and the Fayston Historical Society may be good contacts for additional information. Ned offered to speak to the Bisbee family. Corrie suggested we recruit local people in researching the site's history.

*Lisa will ask for a meeting with Fayston Road Foreman Stuart Hallstrom to discuss a plan for the Boyce Road and BHTF parking area. Ben suggested addressing culverts and he also thought there should be enough area in front of the gate for parking and a turn-around, avoiding any resident driveway obstruction.

FCC MEMBERSHIP

*The FCC currently has 6 members and one vacant position. The SB recently extended Ned and Geri's terms until 2023. Corrie and Lisa will send out an email to Fayston residents who have expressed an interest in serving on the Commission to gauge their level of interest and explore what skills they can bring to the table.

*The proposed FCC Stewardship Committee can benefit from some of the people interested in helping with the FCC. Several tasks are on the agenda for the spring including Japanese knotweed removal at Chase Brook Town Forest and some clean-up at Boyce Hill.

TRI-TOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

*Due to COVID-19 the Tri-Town Conservation Commission meeting for the spring may be tentatively postponed until fall. Corrie, FCC representative for the Tri-Town meetings, will suggest a Zoom meeting in the Spring to keep the commissions informed of other Towns' activities.

*Lisa will provide information regarding a possible late Spring webinar for Conservation Commissions, Planning Commissions and Select Boards presented by Jens Hilke of Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

GREEN-UP DAY

*The FCC will help organize Green-up Day for the town of Fayston. The date has been postponed until May 30th. FCC responsibilities will include publishing the event, providing bags at various locations, and encouraging participation.

COMPOSTING

*Geri said the requirement date of 7/1/20 to ban kitchen scraps from trash is still under consideration by the state but is expected to be extended. Once that information is confirmed, she will write up an update to post on FPF, along with the results of the FCC compost survey.

OTHER BUSINESS

*Lisa has been invited by the Mad Birders to lead a bird walk through the Boyce Hill Forest property. The walk is tentatively scheduled for June 4th at 7:30AM.

The next FCC meeting will be held virtually through Zoom, May 5, 2020, at 6:00PM.