

FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 2, 2020
MEETING MINUTES

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

ACTION ITEMS BEFORE NEXT MEETING

- **Everyone:** Cut down knotweed at the Chase Brook Town Forest parking area, whenever time permits.
- **Lisa and Corrie:** Will finish and send, after approval from the FCC, a letter to interested Fayston residents re: membership on the FCC.
- **Corrie:** Work with the Warren and Waitsfield Conservation Commissions to schedule a Tri-town Zoom meeting for 6/24/20 at 6:30PM.
- **Ned:** Remove fire pits at Boyce Hill Town Forest.

Land Management Committee

- Lisa thanked Ned, Geri, and Judi for knotweed removal work on German Flats Road and North Fayston Road.
- Future projects will include knotweed removal and creation of a cut-off trail in Chase Brook.
- Committee will meet before the next FCC meeting to discuss priorities.

FCC Membership

- The following representations were voted on and confirmed:
 - 1) Lisa and Corrie - Boyce Hill Town Forest representatives
 - 2) Lisa and Corrie - Tri-town Meeting representatives
 - 3) Lisa and Geri - Compost and Green-up day representatives
 - 4) Akhil - Recreation representative
- A motion was made by Ned to nominate Lisa and Corrie as Co-Chairs of the FCC. Gene seconded, no further discussion, all in favor and the motion was approved.
- Corrie and Lisa will finish the letter to interested community members re: membership in FCC, BHTF Steering Committee and Land Management Committee.

Fayston Town Forests

BOYCE HILL

- Corrie submitted a Tiny Grant application for \$600.00 to the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions.
- Lisa, Corrie and Chuck Martel met with Stuart Hallstrom, Fayston Road Commissioner, to discuss the parking lot at the top of Boyce Road. Parking will be provided for 10 vehicles. All efforts will be made to ensure water flows off the parking area to the west rather than down Boyce Road. The Vermont Land Trust, who holds a conservation easement on BHTF, has given the Town permission to build this parking area.
- The June Mad Birders walk that Lisa was going to lead was cancelled due to COVID-19, but Lisa met Pat Folsom and Laura Brines at the Boyce property for a social-distance-approved bird walk. Field sparrows, a rare species for Washington County, were seen and heard in several locations. After Ned expressed an interest in attending the next walk, Lisa said would organize an FCC bird walk - date TBD.
- Ned and Judy did an excellent job of cleaning up the cellar hole. Lisa noted that permission has been granted by the Fayston Select Board to burn the brush that was cut but all agreed to let the brush decompose naturally. Corrie mentioned broken glass and bottles that should be removed.

- Lisa and Akhil, with Ky Koitzsch, Darlene McCormick, and Woody Dugan, removed the dock from the pond. The dock has been used by some community members who expressed their interest in keeping it; however, the Selectboard made the decision to remove it based on insurance liability issues.
- Corrie has seen people sitting near both fire pits, as well as fire residue indicating usage and the need for removal of the pits. Ned said he and Judy will remove them as soon as their free time allows.
- A request has been made for the BHTF to be made available for a wedding. A discussion ensued regarding motorized vehicles, parking and the size of the event. Corrie and Lisa noted that weddings will be part of the overall discussion of usage during the development of the final management plan.
- Lisa and Corrie will contact Wendy Bridgewater and others to arrange a hike through the property and discuss mowing concerns. Ned mentioned that bird habitat should be a priority. Lisa confirmed that whatever mowing may be approved should not happen until after mid-July when ground nesting birds had fledged. Corrie said, in the interest of fairness, that everyone's concerns need to be heard, then presented by the FCC to the Selectboard who will make the final decision.
- Corrie expressed the importance, over the next year, to listen to all community members' concerns and interests related to usage of the BHTF.
- Lisa and Corrie will continue refining the RFP for a Natural Resources Inventory.

CHASE BROOK

- Knotweed removal will be an ongoing project. Ned suggested that everyone keep cutting tools in their vehicles and whenever time allots, stop and remove knotweed.
- Lisa said the wood chip piles near the parking area should be removed or spread along the Fairy Nature Trail at some point.
- Geri asked that we include a workday to complete the dog-loop trail so dog hikers won't need to turn around at the Town boundary, due to interference with farm animals on private land. The Land Stewardship Committee will schedule one during this summer.

GREEN-UP DAY

- Lisa thanked everyone for a great job done by members of the FCC placing bags at various Fayston locations. Green-up day was a success with most bags being filled and left on roadsides for pick-up.
- Lisa will fill out the mandatory report to be submitted to the state regarding Fayston's participation.
- Ned commented that some people fill the bags with their own trash; Geri noted that she thought that was a minimal problem and that most of the public roads appear to have been cleaned.
- The Town of Fayston and VTrans retrieved all bags left at roadsides.

COMPOSTING

- Geri posted a FPF notice about the Compost survey results, and a list of facilities currently accepting kitchen scraps. She and Lisa will research composting options over the next year to include a possible town facility. Geri contacted Jared of A&J recycling last week, and he is looking into the cost of having a system installed that creates heat for buildings using compost. She will make a presentation to the FCC once she has that information.

The next FCC meeting will be held on July 7, 2020 at 6:00PM. Venue TBD.