

**FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**July 7, 2020**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Geri moved to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting. Gene seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No participants.

**FAYSTON TOWN FORESTS**

**BOYCE HILL:**

The Steering Committee has heard from a few horse owners concerned about the Interim Management Plan's "No horses allowed" policy. Lisa is meeting with a Fayston horse owner and a representative from the Vermont Horse Council to learn more about issues surrounding horses on public lands with multiple trail users.

The pond had a lot of activity on Memorial Day, but now the dock has been removed, the pond's use seems to be primarily for cooling off after recreational activity.

The current Boyce Hill Steering Committee consists of Lisa, Corrie, Chuck Martel, and a representative from the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). This committee will be making a decision on new members sometime after July 13th after reviewing the letters of interest that are received.

**CHASE BROOK:**

Lisa said that her husband Ky has agreed to help create a new loop trail that will connect the two trails that currently cross into the Marble Hill Farm property and where no dogs are allowed. Sometime in the near future a date will be set to build the trail. Akhil and Geri agreed to help. Lisa and Akhil would like to limit the trail to walkers and hikers and not create another mountain bike trail on the Town Forest.

**FCC MEMBERSHIP**

Corrie will be sending out a copy of a letter she drafted to potential FCC members and would like current FCC members to read and provide their input.

**KNOTWEED**

Akhil would like to follow through with his idea of creating an "Adopt-a-Knotweed-patch" involving the community and volunteered to help coordinate this initiative. Corrie noted that we should provide some sort of training session prior to sending community members out in the field. Lisa noted that with COVID restrictions, that would be a great way to educate people from home. Instruction should include what tools to use and best practices for disposal. Corrie brought up that there are some differences in how people approach knotweed disposal especially regarding the stems and tops. Corrie also mentioned that there is topsoil being delivered in the Valley that contains knotweed and that people should be careful where they order their topsoil from. Gene mentioned it would be important to make sure that cutting tools are cleaned after being used to cut knotweed. Akhil noted that Warren has placed markers identifying knotweed patches and Fayston could do the same. Corrie mentioned i-Naturalist can be used to mark and keep track of knotweed locations. Akhil said he will follow up, reach out to other conservation commissions, and provide a spreadsheet by our next meeting. Gene mentioned that the knotweed patch at the McCullough Barn area stops at a certain point, and asked if anyone has done any research as to why. Corrie said it could have to do with run-off from the road but Gene will try to identify some of the plants growing in that location.

## **COMPOSTING**

Geri went through her notes on her research so far in developing a community compost program and/or facility in our community. She will be organizing a planning committee with interested members from Waitsfield and Warren who are willing to work with her. She's hoping there will be grant money available due to the new State and Federal regulations. Detailed notes of her work so far can be provided to all members upon request. Corrie suggested contacting Harwood High School to see if they have students involved in composting programs and who may be willing to help. She also noted that Moretown should be included and everyone agreed and Geri will follow up with this. John Malter, of the Mad River Valley Solid Waste District will be conducting a composting workshop at the Waitsfield Municipal Building on August 22nd from 10 - 1130AM.

**The next FCC meeting will be held virtually through Zoom August 4, at 6:00PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Procaccini, Secretary