

**FAYSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 13, 2021**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Lisa Koitzsch, Akhil Kaplan, Ned Kelley

**Guest:** Ky Koitzsch

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ned moved to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 meeting. Akhil seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No participants.

**FCC MEMBERSHIP:**

Geri Procaccini and Gene Fialkof resigned from the FCC at the beginning of the year. The Commission thanks them both for their service. A special thank you to Geri for her willingness to serve as Secretary and for her efforts to promote composting in the Mad River Valley.

Lisa will send everyone a list of people who expressed interest in the FCC at the 2020 Town Meeting as well as a draft notice asking for new members. All will work together to identify possible new FCC members before the next meeting.

**MEETING TIME CONFLICT:**

The DRB has scheduled meetings for the first Tuesday of every month. This coincides with FCC meetings which causes an issue with the Town Zoom account as it can only accommodate one meeting at a time. Lisa will send out a notice to FCC members with a list of potential meeting dates.

**TOWN REPORT:**

Lisa, with help from Corrie and the Boyce Hill Steering Committee (SC), drafted the FCC's annual report to the Town. It has been submitted to Patti Lewis for inclusion.

**BUDGET REPORT:**

The Town budget has not been finalized but preliminary reports show an increase from last year. Thank you to the Select Board members for their commitment to conservation.

FCC Line-Item Budget: \$1,000

Fayston Conservation Reserve Fund: \$3,500

Fayston Town Forest Reserve Fund: \$9,000 – this is for both the Chase Brook and the Boyce Hill Town Forests.

**FAYSTON TOWN FORESTS**

Boyce Hill

Lisa thanked Ned and Judi Gates, and Woody Dugan for their work clearing some of the vegetation from the backside of the pond embankment. That work will be continued over the next two years.

The SC is meeting twice a week and beginning to plan for public educational forums and a public survey.

The SC is considering an apple pruning demonstration for the public sometime in February or March.

SC minutes can be found on the Town website.

### Chase Brook

All agreed to move forward with powder post beetle treatment at the McCullough Barn. Lisa will review the quote that Gene obtained and solicit one or two other quotes from other companies. Borax has been determined to be an effective treatment for the pests as well as safe for people and the environment.

### **RANDELL ROAD BEAVERS**

The beaver baffle sustained damage in a high-water event and the road crew has removed it to keep the culvert clear. No beaver activity has been observed since the baffle was installed. The State will return in the Spring to install a sturdier baffle.

### **HEMLOCK HILL TRAIL**

Lisa and Ky walked the proposed mountain biking trail from Hemlock Hill to Phen Basin a week ago. It crosses numerous pristine streams and seeps and will require over 15 bridges, as well as some intensive machine work to move large boulders and cut trails on steep slopes. It bisects at least three critical deer wintering areas where ample evidence of deer browsing on hemlock saplings was observed. It travels through stands of beech where fresh bear sign was observed. The proposed trail will bring recreational access (in both winter and summer) to the last remaining intact public forested area in Fayston. The Mad River Riders will lead a walk on the trail on January 19<sup>th</sup> for several interested parties. Ky, Akhil, Ned and Select Board member Jared Cadwell will walk the trail on January 15<sup>th</sup> as well. The FCC is very concerned about the negative impacts this trail will have on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

**The next FCC meeting will be held in the beginning of February via Zoom but a date has yet to be determined.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Koitzsch, Co-Chair