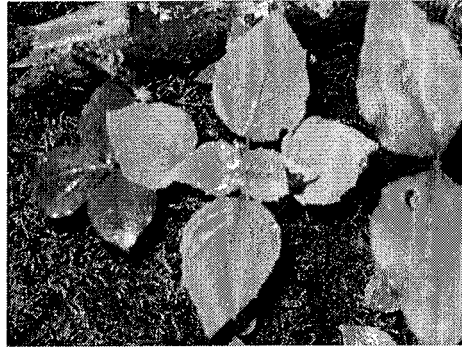


**Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2007**



**Members present:**

Ky Koitzsch, Chair, Patti Greene-Swift, Jane Lazorchak, Peter Forbes, Stellan Wollmar, and Ned Kelley. Members absent: Mary O'Leary.

**Novemberr Minutes, 2007:**

Motion: Stellan Wollmar moved, and Ned Kelley seconded to approve the minutes of November 12, 2007. Vote yes: All in favor. Motion approved.

**Ancient Roads**

Members decided on the final list of ancient roads to present to the SB on December 10th.

Ky won't be able to attend the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Select Board. All other members will try and be present. Mary and Jane will take the lead on the presentation. Patti will lead the presentation on the legal issues associated with what we are proposing. We are meeting with Select Board at 6:30.

Members first discussed the Class 4 roads in Fayston. These include: the Carrey/Strong Rd., Slide Brook Rd., Marble Hill, and Old Center Fayston Road. Members felt that we should take a consistent approach to all of these roads, despite how much use they receive now. Therefore there was discussion amongst the members to recommend that the class 4 roads be downgraded to trails, however more research is needed for impacts to landowners. Patti said that this is legally feasible and would explain the process at the Select Board Meeting. Members agreed that by downgrading these roads to trails that there would be less cost to the town and that the town would benefit through increased recreational opportunities and permanently protected scenic byways. Members also suggested working with the Planning Commission to highlight these areas as scenic byways in the town plan.

Members then went through the compiled list of ancient roads to ensure we were all satisfied with our delineations and to note the landowners of affected parcels (Note: Numbers refer to town map where the ancient roads are drawn on):

1. NO. FNRC members decided unanimously not to pursue the loop road located in Big Basin.

2. Yes. Located on the right at the end of Sharpshooters road, number two crosses over into Duxbury. Members unanimously agreed to pursue researching this possible ancient road. Mary has contacted Duxbury, and they have not yet begun researching their ancient roads. Landowners include: Steven Mills, Mad River Equities, Daniel Fuller, and the Town of Fayston.
3. No. Members unanimously agreed to not pursue number three as it is believed that it is now used as a driveway.
4. No. Members unanimously agreed to not pursue number four as it is believed that this ancient road goes right through someone's home.
5. No. Members unanimously agreed not to pursue number five which is located just off the left side of Dunbar Hill and crosses into Duxbury.
6. No. Members agreed that number six is no longer a road.
7. Yes. Members unanimously agreed that number seven needs more research. Landowner is John and Monican Pieper.
- 7.5 No. Jane checked and the present landowner created the road.
8. Yes. Members unanimously agreed that number eight will be pursued since Baird of the Bush is a known spot for recreation. Landowners include: Samuel and Heather Clark, Duke Family Trustees, James Lathrop, and Michael Quenneville.
9. Yes. The Fayston/Huntington gap trail is known to be used for recreation, and is an interesting area. Landowners include Van Hollen and Big Basin Forest Trust.
- 10.No. Number ten, located by Old & New Mansfield roads, is not known to be used and members unanimously decided not to pursue it.
- 11.Yes. Slide Brook road is number eleven and is actively used for recreation, and it is already known to be a class 4 road. Landowners include: Sugarbush, Jean Towns, Bob Crane, and Allan Spector.
12. Yes. German Flats area near Warren Town line & extending into Warren. Landowners: Not determined at this point.
- 12a. Yes. Tucker Hill road area. Landowners include: Kalksteins and Elwin Neill and Brenda Gross.
- 12b. Yes. Marble Hill extension with access off Sugar Run Rd. Landowners include Margaret and Thorvald Tenney.
13. Yes. This area is located near Post Office Hill in Fayston, abutting the Waitsfield line. Landowners include: Irasville Incubator and Storage LLC, MacClean Properties, Jay & Sarah Gauthier, and Mynderse & Kathleen Woodruff.
14. No.
15. **Yes.** Talc Mine Road needs more research. Landowners include Peter Gasperini, Paul Pizzale, Eastern Magnesia Talc Co., Russel Reynolds, and Chris Honeywell.
16. **Yes.** Phen Basin Road connecting to Phen Road needs more research. Landowners include Theodore Church, Dorothy McGann, the Battleground, Scott and Teri Munday, Joan Ham, and David Silverstein.

Based on Members knowledge of the area or through research during this project, roads were highlighted as a 'yes' either because they are currently being used by town's people as trails or because members felt like they did not know

the area well enough to draw a final conclusion. All roads were marked as 'no' when members felt comfortable saying that the roads were not being used because of inaccessibility (development) or because they no longer exist.

**Next Steps for Ancient Roads:**

- 1) Minutes will be typed up and circulated to the Select Board prior to our meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> in order to aid in our discussion that evening.
- 2) Present our work to date to the Select Board.
- 3) Contact affected landowners.
- 4) Hold a public meeting to finalize the list.

**Chase Brook:**

Chase Brook Town Forest will be our next priority after we have completed our ancient roads work. As a precursor to discussing the forest in more detail, Ky suggested that we end by going around the table and stating our vision/ideas related to the management of the Chase Brook parcel.

Stellan: Interested in creating signage for the town forest. Stellan also suggested working with the school to setup an orienteering course on the forest with the students.

Ned: Echoed what Stellan suggested and said that he needs to get out on the forest to learn more about the site.

Patti: Interested in all types of botanical and natural history inventory work. Also suggested an interpretive brochure with stations throughout the forest highlighting the areas unique ecology.

Peter: Suggested a community-built lean-to on site. This lean-to could be used by the school as well as community members.

Jane: Conservation Commission has expertise to lead different field trips on the site in order to help folks connect to their town forest. Also suggested working with community members to conduct the inventory work needed to complete the management plan. Suggested doing a bio-blitz – a 12-hour comprehensive inventory with different teams focused on different pieces of the landscape (plants, soils, animals, etc.).

Ky: Use the forest as a model for forest sustainability. As such, it could be a model for private landowners to learn from. It could also be a source for local energy (wood chips) and wood products.

**Next Meetings:**

December 10<sup>th</sup> to present ancient road findings to SB.

January 7 and February 4 are our next Conservation Commission Meetings.

**Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.**

Members unanimously agreed to end the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Jane Lazorchal, FNRC Member