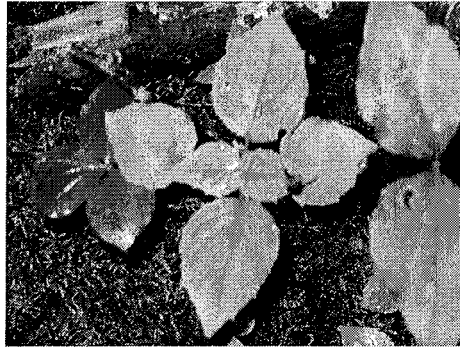


**Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes
November 12th, 2007**



Members present:

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

Guest Present:

Linda Lloyd, MRVPD

October Minutes, 2007:

Motion: Ky Koitzsch moved, and Ned Kelley seconded to approve the minutes of October 15th, 2007. Vote yes: All in favor. Motion approved.

Presentation by Linda Lloyd:

Linda Lloyd from the Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) explained the function of the MRVPD to members of the FNRC. The following bulleted items highlight the topics covered:

- MRVPD was created to work on issues that transcended town boundaries in the valley.
- MRVPD works on single town issues as well—Warren sewer, Waitsfield water issues, natural heritage studies, grant writing assistance.
- MRVPD current issues: New septic regulations, housing regulations, municipal education, sustainable agriculture, and affordable housing.
- Three towns are involved in MRVPD: Waitsfield, Warren, and Fayston. Currently the town of Moretown isn't involved, however they may be at some time in the future if they are interested and the three towns vote them in.
- MRVPD hosts a three town Select Board meeting with each town having a SB member and a PC member appointed by their individual towns to discuss matters with interested parties such as MRV Waste Alliance, MR Path Association, MR Seniors, Law Enforcement representatives, and other groups/individuals with appropriate issues.

Linda Lloyd also gave an explanation of the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership (MRWCP) and its focus on Mad River Valley conservation opportunities. Members are VLT, FOMR, Yestermorrow, Mad River Housing

Coalition, and the MRVPD. The MRWCP has funds to assist with conservation purchases, and operates as a revolving fund—with a % of the funding paid for conservation coming back to the partnership. The partnership is opportunity driven and maintains a priority list of properties it is interested in for conservation. The funding for MRWCP is private. If members of the FNRC feel strongly about conserving a parcel of land they should contact either Linda Lloyd, or Liza Walker at the VLT.

Linda has a vision for the creation of a valley land trust. She would like to see the land bank committee come up with ideas for land to be held in trust, and have conservation commissions get together for a valley-wide planning meeting in the future.

Currently two affordable housing initiatives are being worked on—the Blue Tooth project, and the Mad Meadows project (stalled due to high price tag of solar panels). Prior to these two projects Linda was working with Warren on a Farmhouse cluster P.U.D. to help educate folks about how cluster housing can be a desirable planning tool for municipalities.

Act 250 was discussed briefly and it was noted that: 75 – 80% of all Act 250 applications have no hearing, less than 10% of hearings are attended by interested parties, and only 5 lot subdivisions (or previously subdivided Act 250 parcels) require and Act 250 permit. As well, 80% of parcels going through the Act 250 process here in the valley are in need of wildlife use mitigation (determinations by VT Fish & Wildlife).

Lastly a discussion was had regarding the industry in the Mad River Valley. All agree that we are losing industry to the high costs associated with property, and the lack of decent housing for workers.

Ancient Roads

Members decided on the final list of ancient roads to research in depth for preservation to present to the SB on December 10th.

Patti will copy the final maps with landowner information, and scan them too and send to FNRC members.

Ky won't be able to attend the December 10th meeting with the Select Board.

Patti will contact the Select Board to get on the December 10th, schedule.

Members of FNRC will do final on-the-ground checks of the ancient roads.

Ancient Roads # 1 – 16

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.

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.
- 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.
9. Yes. The Fayston/Huntington gap trail is known to be used for recreation, and is an interesting area.
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.
12. Yes. German Flats area near Warren Town line & extending into Warren
- 12a. Yes. Tucker Hill road area.
- 12b. Yes. Marble Hill extension with access off Sugar Run Rd.
13. Yes. This area is located near Post Office Hill in Fayston, abutting the Waitsfield line.
14. No.
15. Yes. Talc Mine Road needs more research.
16. Yes. Phen Basin Road connecting to Phen Road needs more research.

Ongoing Work List for Ancient Roads (* = in process or completed)

1. *Education about the ancient roads legislation for the FNRC members. Mary will do a write-up and Patti will find legal definitions for different classes of town roads, and identify what the process encompasses for downgrading roads to trails.
2. *Create maps for the FNRC to work with as a group.
3. *Identify ancient roads not known to be thrown up.
4. *Gather landowner information.
5. *Present to Select Board our findings, thoughts, recommendations, and come to an agreement on future actions.
6. Create public presentation, contact landowners via letter/phone and invite them as well as the public, by newspaper & web to a meeting to discuss the who, what, when, where, and why of the ancient roads project. Work with public to get consensus on which roads to keep & which to potentially throw up.
7. Public meeting for ancient roads.
8. Create recommendations from the public meeting suggestions & our own work too for the Fayston Select Board.
9. Present to Select Board.

Publicity:

The FNRC press release was published in the Valley Reporter in early November.

Next Meetings:

The next meetings will be held at the Fayston Town Offices at 7:00 p.m. on December 3rd, to prepare for the SB meeting, and again on December 10th to present ancient road findings to SB.

Homework for members:

Become familiar with ancient road sites around town, continue ancient roads work. (all)

Chase Brook plan & visit Chase Brook Parcel (all)

Upcoming Meetings:

Please see Long-Range Meeting Schedule.

Thank you:

Ned for the clear mapping details & use of your copy of the ancient roads map!
Linda Lloyd for a clear & comprehensive explanation of the Mad River Valley Planning District, and its vital functions here in the Mad River Valley.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully,
Patti Greene-Swift, FNRC Secretary