

Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2008

Members present:

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

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 26, 2008.

Homework for members:

Research on assigned (Single) ancient road as listed below.

1. Minutes from last meeting were approved
2. Ky showed some slides of the Yellowstone Wolf Project
3. Issues discussed:

Ancient Roads Issues:

Ky met with the Select Board on April 14th to discuss renewal of terms for our members. At that time Stellan, Patti GS and Ned were all appointed to 3 yr. terms. We also discussed the next step in the Ancient Roads issue. The select board decided not to call a public meeting yet because they feared they would get people unnecessarily worried about the issue and that we didn't have any hard answers for the questions that they would ask. It was decided that the research needed to be done first before we called a meeting. Patti Lewis and I earlier that day worked on some methodology in the vault for researching roads – we have defined resources and locations of resources. Also, trimming down our list of roads to those only heavily used for recreation would help. Upon reviewing the roads at our 5/26 meeting all those present realized that our list was already sufficiently trimmed. So we all chose a road to research and will report back our findings at our next meeting. We also talked about getting interested parties from the town who may have a great interest in the history of the town to help with research, but for now we are it. The roads chosen or assigned are as follows: Mary – Slide Brook Road, Peter – Road behind post office, Ned - #2, Jane - #8 – Jane will also look into the State recreation easement on the Fen Basin land and how it may affect future use of the Baird in the Bush trail and others in basin, Ky - #7, Patti GS - #16 and Stellan needs to pick a road he is interested in. We also discussed that the road to the talc mine may be important in preserving because the mine has a historical value as well as a potential ecological value if it supplies habitat to any bat species during the year.

Chase Brook Parcel Management:

Tara, Jane and Chris Dodge (Principal of Fayston Elementary) have been discussing when best to meet again at the school. Discussion has centered around what dates, what times, who will attend from the school and/or valley, and who will present information at the meeting. Time is getting tight at the end of the school year so we may have to compromise what we initially hoped to do. Jane was going to talk to Kim Royer – state furbearer biologist – to see if she could give a presentation about the mink. As I was writing this Tara emailed

and is working on getting either an after school or weekend event together where we can do a field trip with Kim and then discuss strategies for managing for mink and perhaps look at a slide show.

Arrowwood Natural Resource Inventory Data

We discussed how the FNRC could help in getting the Arrowwood data and maps to the public. As was discussed at an earlier meeting with Jens Hilke, Jamey Fidel, Patti GS, Shayne Jaquith, and myself, getting this information out to the Fayston residents will help people understand that we do have valuable natural resources here in Fayston and that some may be on their land. We would hope they would consider this before making any future planning decisions that may impact these areas. We can discuss options for this at the next meeting, but if anyone has any ideas in the meantime, pass them along. Thanks.

Also, I attended the meeting last week at the Warren Town Hall where Arrowwood presented their work to the town of Warren. It was a good experience for me as I was not able to attend the meeting where they presented the Fayston information. I asked about combining the data from the three towns (Waitsfield being the third) and they said it would not be a problem when the time comes to do so. Also, for the town of Warren, in addition to what they created for Waitsfield and Fayston, they formatted the natural resources data so it could be viewed on Google Earth. It was a very good way for people to view the data and once in that format it is free to use Google Earth. Maybe we could take a closer look at the Warren data on Google Earth and see if it is anything we would consider doing for our Fayston residents. Also, it was apparent that there are endless opportunities for Fayston residents to ground truth what data has been compiled and to add to it. We should further discuss these options for the future and how we can get interested residents involved.

FNRC sponsored annual Fayston picnic

Peter offered the Knoll Farm as a venue for a FNRC sponsored annual town picnic on October 4th, 2008. We talked about each of the committee members leading a different hike (starting around noon) for Fayston town residents so they can enjoy natural parts of Fayston that maybe they have never visited before or even knew that they existed. Following in the late afternoon we would convene at the Knoll farm for a pot luck picnic and bon-fire. I will contact the Select Board on their thoughts. FYI, the last Fayston Town Picnic was on September 12, 1998 at the old Vasseur Farm, now residence of Doug and Kelley Lewis. It was to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Fayston and was sponsored by the Fayston Historical Society.

Agenda items for next meeting

I will circulate agenda items for our next meeting the week before the meeting date. If you have any agenda items please forward them to me. Thanks.

Enjoy the nice weather.

Respectfully submitted,
Ky Koitzsch, Chair