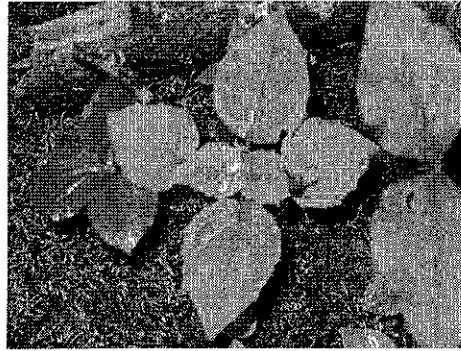


**Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2008**



Members present

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

Guest present

Tara Hamilton from the Northern Forest Alliance--and also a member of the Town of Warren Conservation Commission.

January Minutes 2008

Motion: Jane Lazorchak moved, and Patti Greene-Swift seconded to approve the minutes of January 7, 2008. Vote yes: All in favor. Motion approved.

Ancient Roads

Members discussed preparing for the ancient roads discussion at the town meeting in March, and having members attend to support Mary who will be presenting information to Fayston residents and answering questions for those interested. (Not everyone can attend, however those who can will.)

A letter written by Ky was forwarded to FNRC members and both Jane & Patti commented on the letter and all members agreed that it is ready to be presented to the Valley Reporter.

The letter to landowners regarding their potentially having an ancient road on their property is being suspended until further research either proves or disproves there actually being an ancient road on their property.

A map of potential ancient roads will be created by Patti & Jane for town meeting to show residents where potential ancient roads of interest for trails may be located. A disclaimer will be attached as well as a comment sheet for possible information gathering of residents with knowledge about specific ancient roads.

Town Trails & properties conservation

The future for potential town trails was discussed and the MRP Association was discussed as a method for holding trail easements.

Conservation of town parcels that other conservation entities don't want to take on was discussed and will remain an open discussion for future meetings. There is room for FNRC to conserve land since not all conservation groups want to take on all parcels people decide to give. Presently MRWCP, VLT, and TNC are the big land conservation entities and they do have to monitor their conservation easements and lands with limited resources (\$'s) and few staff to accomplish the work that conserving land requires.

Tara also let FNRC members know that the FNRC can hold conservation easements, and is thus required to monitor easements (however not paid to do so), hold land (as a town entity) and would also have legal liability for land held in easement or conservation. She also explained that easements are only a good option for towns if they are monitored.

Presently VLT asks landowners to pay for easements and the legal process for land putting land into conservation easement.

To better enable the FNRC to do its work Tara recommended the FNRC ask the town for a fund amount to set aside annually for conservation projects (requested amount to be determined by FNRC). This dollar amount could either be requested at town meeting or a special meeting advertised as legally required.

Northern Forest Alliance Grant

Tara gave a presentation of the F&W Grant that the Northern Forest Alliance has been granted to get communities (in our case Fayston) interested in the species of greatest conservation need in their communities. Through a process of working with school age children the FNRC members can assist the children in identifying two species to identify for conservation (plants, animals, invertebrates, birds, amphibians). A conservation plan for the species will then be crafted with the children and adults of the community & FNRC (all with the help of Tara!!) to help manage the species of greatest conservation need.

FNRC members will meet ahead of time with Fayston Elementary School personnel who will work on this project to assist with a realistic species for our area & get a sense of what ages and abilities we will be working with for this project.

The children will then be brought out into the field on snowshoes to explore the habitat & discuss with adults the possible options for their choice of species of greatest conservation need.

Dates chosen by FNRC members & Tara to work on this project are:

February 22nd at 10:00 a.m. visit to Chase Brook parcel, aka Fayston Town Forest.

March 13th for FES day with the children (in field if program is not cancelled)

March 20th to pick a species of greatest conservation need with process agreed upon by school, children, and NFA with consultation of FNRC.

Next Steps for Ancient Roads

- 1) Presentation at town meeting: Mary as speaker, members as support. (Mary)
- 2) Map for presentation at town meeting with disclaimer & comments paper for residents to use as feedback & information gathering. (Patti & Jane)
- 3) Integrate information learned at town meeting into the ancient roads work.
- 4) Re-define steps to accomplish work within a new time frame.

Chase Brook

Members, by unanimous decision agreed to do the volunteer work with the Northern Forest Alliance, supported by Tara Hamilton of the NFA, on the Chase Brook Parcel/Fayston Town Forest.

Next Meetings:

February 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Visit to the Fayston Town Forest (aka Chase Brook parcel). Meet at the Fayston School overflow parking lot, located across from the Fayston Elementary School (entry next to the Van Loon Barn).

March 3, 2008 FNRC Meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully,
Patti Greene-Swift, FNRC Member