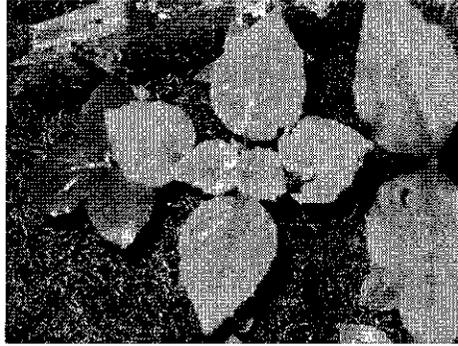


**Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2008**



Members present:

Ky Koitzsch, Chair, Mary O'Leary, Stellan Wollmar, Ned Kelley, and Peter Forbes.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 4, 2008.

Homework for members:

Mary – Send Ancient Roads Summary out to all by Paul Gillis.

Ancient Roads Issues:

1. Mary will send out to all a summary of the Ancient Roads issue created by Paul Gillis.
2. FNRC's role in the Ancient Roads issue at Town meeting. An ancient roads update, like the one written on page 62 of last years Town Report, will be included in the 2007 town report. Ky and Patti Lewis will submit this giving an update on the Ancient Roads work in Fayston
3. **See Addendum at end describing changes in direction with Ancient Roads issue.**

Chase Brook Parcel Management:

1. Jane brought to our attention before the last meeting that the Northern Forest Alliance has been funded through a Vermont State Wildlife Grant to provide technical assistance to 8 Vermont towns for implementing SGCN (species of greatest conservation need) restoration and conservation strategies on town forest lands. NFA has chosen Fayston to be one of those towns. We thought that this would dovetail nicely with some of our goals for managing the Chase Brook Parcel. With this in mind, Jane has arranged to have Tara Hamilton, representative of the NFA,

meet with us at our February 4th meeting to discuss the project.

2. We also talked about making the implementation of management of Chase Brook parcel a model of what people in the community can do with their personal forest land. Also, if we can successfully implement a management plan that is beneficial to the people of Fayston (and to other Valley residents), more community members may be willing to donate land for conservation. At this point it was brought up by Stellan that Fayston, and the Valley for that matter, still do not have a means to accept land donation and conservation easements, so we were trying to determine who could help us figure out how to do this. With that, Peter offered to contact Tara Hamilton or Liza Walker to see if they could attend a meeting and enlighten us. Peter also pointed out that we may want to pursue something other than the "valley version" of The Vermont Land Trust. Something maybe more dynamic that takes into consideration some of our other valley needs and goals. Tara can speak to the land conservation issue as well at our next meeting.
3. We also discussed cooperatively owned forests and discussed the example of Hogback Mountain in Monkton as a current example. Deb Brighton was the person that masterminded the idea and Peter suggested that we invite her to talk to us about how we can facilitate such an effort here in Fayston. Peter pointed out that he has had visions of such ownership working here in the past. What is also intriguing about the whole idea is that it can give ownership and a sense of community to those people in the valley that otherwise would not be able to own, manage and enjoy their own woodlot.
4. The question arose about who at Fayston School we should speak to about educational opportunities associated with the Chase Brook parcel.

Misc.

1. Jane agreed to draft a FNRC update to be included in the 2007 Town Report.
2. An idea also came up of having the FNRC be a hub where community wildlife programs such as The Winter Bird Study can report through. Hopefully this would help distribute this important information to the public.
3. We wanted to take a look at the Fayston website to make sure the FNRC was on there and our minutes were posted. I took a look and we were not. I spoke with Patti L. and Patti GS and they said they would work on adding it.
4. We also spoke about the importance of having a valley-wide public service news letter.
5. We spoke of bringing back the annual Fayston picnic to be sponsored by the FNRC that could be advertised through local schools. In the morning of picnic day we could offer up to 10 different hikes and walks, all led by FNRC members and other

volunteers, that would highlight the beautiful natural resources of Fayston. That afternoon we would convene for a potluck picnic.

Addendum - Since the last meeting the following occurred.

1. Some new thoughts have surfaced about the timing of a public hearing on the Ancient Roads issue. In researching the Ancient Roads issue to write the article which was to accompany the public hearing notice in the Valley Reporter, I realized that by contacting whom we believe to be abutting property owners to the ancient roads in question, without knowing if they actually are because we have not done the research, we may be unnecessarily alarming some of our residents. I spoke with Jared this morning and he is in agreement. So we thought it may make more sense to hold off on the public meeting but use the town meeting as a forum to gather public input. Patti L. and I will submit an article to the Valley Reporter discussing the FNRC progress with the AR issue in Fayston without referencing specific roads. In the letter we will invite residents to bring their thoughts to town meeting and join in a discussion. Mary will be the FNRC member at Town Meeting to speak to the Ancient Roads issue and along with the Select Board will be fielding questions and concerns from the public.
2. In regard to the ancient roads project, Mary pointed that our monthly FCC meetings should probably be publicly warned. She cited a recent article in the Waterbury Record where Deb Markowicz found that Waterbury's Public Safety Building Committee had violated Vermont's open meeting law by failing to publicly announce their meetings. Especially since we are actively pursuing the Ancient Roads issue and want as much public involvement and support as possible, we can avoid these issues by following guidelines from the Vermont Secretary of State's Pocket Guide to the Open Meeting Law. Patti L. said if we can get her a schedule of meetings and an agenda of each meeting she can properly post them for us.
3. Shayne Jaquith has written a draft for the Fayston Town Plan of The Natural Resources and Environment chapter. If anyone is interested in reviewing it they can contact Shayne or ask Ky to send them a copy if they don't already have it.

Respectfully submitted,
Ky Koitzsch, Chair