

Fayston Natural Resource Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9th, 2009

Members present

Patti, Cory, Ned Stellan, and Jane were present.

Some Announcements:

Association of VT Con Coms annual mtg—December 5th 9am, Elks Lodge Montpelier

Central VT trail finder initiatives—big basin trail to burnt rock and baird in the bush not part of MRP. Send in GPS waypoints of these trails to be part of Central VT trail map. Could we do this as part of recruitment effort?

Become a VT tree steward? Part of UVM extension service. Adopt an urban tree.

October 2009:

Jane moved to approve, Ned seconded

Selection of Vice Chair

Patti has volunteered and we all cheered. Puts together agenda and runs the meetings when chair isn't present.

Action Items: Can we work on getting an agenda out a week before in the email body (i.e. not an attached document)?

Chase Brook Town Forest

1.
 - o Update on recent boundary work and need for marking boundaries (Ned). Replaced transect flagging with ripstop cords. Also removed dead trees that were planted. Moved sign to show where trail goes. The trail signs are in and with Ky—perhaps spend our time in December putting them up instead of meeting.
 - o Review of management plan contents and next steps—Tabled until everyone has a chance to review updated TOC by Jane circulated by Patti. Set some deadlines for each section for people to draft

and present? Patti, Ned and Cory volunteers for Jan. Ky and Jane for Feb. Devote Jan and Feb's meeting to management plan in an effort to have a draft for town meeting.

- Update on any discussions with elementary school this year (Cory)-moving forward with trail mapping project and will set some dates for mammal monitoring in winter

Action Items: In lieu of a regular meeting, we will spend our time putting up the boundary markers for Chase Brook.

FWCP Update:

- Update on recent initiatives—websites, technical assistance for landowners. Pay someone to synthesize arrowwood data into one valley-wide “report” accessible to laypeople, etc. Have a work plan now to show all initiatives and costs.
- Welcome Wagon kit training on 12/2 at Knoll Farm. Mailing going out in Dec. to new landowners from 2004-2009 25 acres+, get letter and materials asking for interest in the kit. Right now 11 volunteers to deliver.

Discussions with Fayston PC:

Shayne, Chuck, Ky and Jane had dinner to discuss forging a new relationship

- Input on land use regulations. Talked with Warren CC about their relationship with DRB. Applicants currently encouraged to go to CC first to talk over plans before going to DRB—this is not formal or required. Do we want this, and what are the commitments and expectations? Even if don't have expertise necessary can get the right people involved. If someone comes in with DRB application, many times are just scoping it out and learning what they can do, a pre-app. Appropriate to have FNRC go onto property to survey and give opinion—have to be careful of actually delineating wildlife features. No appeals process in place for those that don't agree with us. Need to be strategic about where we focus our energy, and use the maps to decide where it is. Designate arrowwood maps as advisory maps. Shayne wants to send out Land Use Regs for us to review and comment on. Get a small set of our group (Jane) to work closely with PC on the re-writes of the Land Regs.
- Seeking a conservation fund for Fayston. Jane has talked with other 2 towns about how their funds work—they do line items for theirs and do not recommend it as it can be 0'd out at town meeting. Perhaps a tax instead? Is this the year to do that? Spend this time to research what it might look like (a penny on property taxes), how much costing landowners, what does it net for us, etc. Brian Shupe will be doing this for

us. Took Richmond 4 years to build up their fund—do a 3 year interval so there is an ending date. Get it started this year, even it doesn't pass. Requires a petition to get on town meeting. Could we start with a line item for the year/fundraise ask for donations to get a chunk started accruing interest?

Recruiting new Member

- events to attract members (hike?). Central VT trail finder project—advertise for it. Tentative date 1st or 2nd weekend in February for Baird in the Bush.
- Tap into our networks of Fayston people.
- Moose Lady in?

Next Meetings:

In lieu of a December meeting, we will get together to hang the boundary marker signs for Chase Brook

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully,

Cory Stephenson, FNRC Member