

FNRC Minutes of October 1st, 2008

Members Present:

Ky Koitzsch, Jane Lazorchak, Mary O'Leary, Stellan Wollmar, and Patti Greene-Swift.

Members Absent:

Ned Kelley, Peter Forbes.

Chase Brook Town Forest:

Guest Present: Tara Hamilton

Tara Hamilton attended the FNRC meeting to discuss with members the final work they needed to do to close out the Forests, Wildlife, and Communities grant. Tara explained that there is little left to do, however we should decide what will be the strategy, or strategies, to help the species of greatest conservation need (SGCN = mink) in and around the Chase Brook Town Forest.

Tara and members discussed the successful work of the FNRC thus far including Fayston Elementary Children now using the Chase Brook Town Forest (CBTF) for education, holding a successful educational walk & presentation on the CBTF wildlife attributes, and having two CBTF articles published in the Valley Reporter. What the FNRC still needs to do is to document its conservation strategies that it has accomplished, document the next steps, and the final outcome of our grant work, as well as do one of the following: Publish an educational article about CBTF, do a public walk on CBTF, create an educational flyer about CBTF, or use another idea to get the word out about mink.

The group discussed doing an article for the Valley Reporter to update citizens on the activities and work that has been going on at CBTF including an invite to a hike on the property, holding a public education walk on CBTF with a discussion component to enlighten participants about the species utilizing the CBTF as well as the SGCN (mink). Jane will write the article, all members will assist with edits, and Jane & Patti will do the educational walk in CBTF.

Conservation strategies were discussed and included talking & working with adjoining landowners (adjoining landowner's names have already been identified), discussed culvert inventory options following VT State protocols. Mary volunteered to coordinate the culvert survey with FNRC members. Inventorying what we have for communities on CBTF was also discussed and Jane volunteered to do forest communities, while Patti volunteered to do the wetland communities along with the wetland delineations. As well, there is still interest in creating an information flyer for the parcel, and Stellan will create an update for the CBTF boundary marker that includes a picture of *Mustela vison*. Beyond these work items connectivity work, a chop & drop project (woody debris for structural diversity), and changing the Fayston Elementary School Mascot to the mink (Fayston kid's suggested this!) were all added to the list of activities to accomplish under the grant.

The date chosen for the educational walk & discussion is October 26th, and Jane will write an article for the VR that all will edit by October 9th. Date to have other planning work done is October 13th.

Ancient Roads:

Next steps for ancient roads are to research titles for the two chosen roads to keep, inform the SB of which ancient roads the town should keep, and help the SB prepare for the required public meeting in December. After the public meeting the roads will need to be added to the town highway certificate.

Next Meeting FNRC:

Monday, October 13th, 2008 at the Fayston Town Office Building.