

Fayston Conservation Commission

MINUTES

May 25, 2022

1. Community Rec Visioning and FCC Representative

For approximately 18 months, Friends of the Mad River and tri-town conservation commissions have been meeting to work on a visioning process to ensure that future Valley initiatives reflect the Valley's dual interests in diverse outdoor recreation experiences and protecting the integrity of the working and natural landscape. Recently, this initiative was partially funded by a VOREC grant. A facilitator, Paul Costello, has been hired to form a steering committee made up of representatives from 15-16 local organizations from conservation commissions, trail organizations, Friends of the Mad River, the Planning District, and the Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to create a gold standard for environmental protection and recreation in the MRV by safeguarding existing natural resources and planning for long-term stewardship opportunities.

Akhil made a motion to nominate himself as the Fayston Conservation Commission's representative to the Community Rec Visioning Steering Committee. Ned seconded, all in favor, the motion was approved. Lisa will act as backup in case Akhil cannot attend a meeting.

2. Phen Basin – Hemlock Hill

The Camel's Hump Management Plan was released in November 2021. In this plan, there is a map showing an area of potential mountain biking trails in the Phen Basin Ecological Protection Zone (EPZ). This is very concerning as this area was supposed to be protected. In addition, the plan specifies that a Natural Areas Policy will be developed for the Phen Basin. Akhil will draft a letter to Vermont Forest, Parks, and Recreation to support the continued protection of the EPZ and request a status on the Natural Areas Policy. FCC will also reach out in a cooperative way to the Mad River Riders to determine how we can work more collaboratively. Lisa will send the CHMP to everyone.

3. ARPA funds projects

Corrie and Lisa submitted a list of five FCC projects to the Fayston Select Board for the use of ARPA funds. The SB response was very favorable. The Boyce Hill Management Plan, Safeguarding Wildlife Crossings, Community Recreation Visioning, Knotweed Management, and McCullough Barn Maintenance will receive ARPA funds over the next few years.

4. Knotweed Management

Ned and Judi Gates are back at work on several knotweed patches on German Flats Road and North Fayston Road. Knotweed has been cut back and signs are in place. They will continue to focus on manageable patches as the FCC begins work on expanding their efforts to eradicate knotweed from the upper reaches of Fayston.

5. New members

FCC needs new members to fill 3 vacant positions. All will work on coming up with more names. Lisa will print out the Fayston voter checklist for the next FCC meeting.

6. Boyce Hill

The Boyce Hill Steering Committee has selected Amy Sheldon of Landslide Natural Resource Planning, LLC as the consultant for completion of the long-term management plan.

7. Chase Brook

A summer camp for children will be held at the barn for two weeks in June. Ned and Judi have cut back a significant portion of the knotweed and will work with Lisa over the summer to begin clearing up the Nature Trail area. Lisa will solicit a quote from Kevin Streeter for pouring a concrete floor in the McCullough Barn. Lisa met with Tom Spencer of stewardMRV recently and he will be assigning

volunteers to visit the parking area on a weekly basis to collect trash (a volunteer will also be checking Boyce Hill weekly). Lisa will check in with Ky about applying a finish seal to the barn timbers for powder post beetle protection.

8. Fayston Hazard Mitigation Plan

Lisa will serve as FCC rep to the committee working on updating this plan. Corrie will represent Friends of the Mad River as time allows.

9. Black Bears

Lisa and Chris Stephenson of Stark Mountain Foundation continue to slowly update the Chamber of Commerce website about bears and the Initiative continues to meet every month. A webinar by Sue Morse recently, sponsored by the NE Wilderness Trust and the MRV Bear Initiative, was very well attended with over 250 people.

10. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 14 at 9 AM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jun 14, 2022 9:00AM

Jul 12, 2022 9:00AM

Aug 9, 2022 9:00AM

Sep 13, 2022 9:00AM

Oct 11, 2022 9:00AM

Nov 8, 2022 9:00AM

Dec 13, 2022 9:00AM