

Fayston Natural Resource Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Members attending: Carol Chamberlin, Gene Fialkoff, Fred Gilbert, Ned Kelly, Ky Koitzsch, Geri Procaccini

Others attending: Laura Brines (MRPA), Caitlin Cusack (VLT), Mac Rood, Dori Ross (MRPA)

Chase Brook bridge replacement

Representatives of the Mad River Path Association were present, along with Mac Rood, to provide information regarding proposed plans to replace the collapsed bridge crossing the Chase Brook at the McCullough Barn site. Mac had helped with a bridge over the Clay Brook in Warren that happened to be the same dimensions as what is needed at this site, and is willing to be the project manager for this undertaking. Those present were able to survey the site as Mac explained the design of the bridge and the work necessary to get it in place.

The estimated cost of the bridge replacement, which will consist of steel beams on concrete pads, pressure treated decking, and rails is approximately \$20K. An anonymous donor has announced they will match up to \$10K in donations. American Flatbread is holding a benefit bake for MRPA on May 27; the proceeds will be put toward the bridge replacement. Caitlin suggested the Vermont Community Fund's Small and Inspiring grant program as another possible source of funding. **Ky will look into a grant from the Mad River Valley Recreation District.**

Permitting needs were discussed; Laura offered to look back at Will Flender's notes regarding the project to determine what may be needed at the state level and report back to the FNRC. **Carol offered to look into state permits.**

Members expressed agreement that the project should move ahead, noting that a discussion of funding sources should be continued.

Town Forest Management Plan

Caitlin was present as both the Stewardship contact person for the Vermont Land Trust as well as someone who could offer forestry advice regarding the parcel. The primary purposes of maintaining the forest were noted as protection of wildlife habitat, recreation, education, and a community firewood program. It was agreed to hold a meeting to focus on the contents of the Forest Management Plan, followed by a walk through the forest with Caitlin in attendance. The date for the review of the plan was set as June 7, with a tentative date of June 8 to schedule the forest walk. **All FNRC members will review the forest management plan before then and Ky will inform them of what had been discussed about the plan in the past.**

Barn Housewarming/Community Gathering

With some work needing to be completed before holding a get-together, which had been postponed from last autumn, it was decided to set a date in August or September. The Saturday after Labor Day (**September 10**) was raised as a possible date; members will check on their availability for that and surrounding dates.

Bridge Funding

The possibility of Barn Housewarming/Community Gathering becoming a fundraiser for the bridge project was discussed, along with other ideas for where funds might be raised or grants sought. Members also discussed the concept of using Conservation Reserve funds for the project, an idea which had been proposed by the Select Board at the time of the bridge collapse. It was decided that a conversation with the Select Board would be beneficial.

Barn

Ned offered to tend to the knotweed by the parking lot entrance (he had as of Memorial Day) and Ky was going to speak with Ed Reed about mowing (Lisa did remind Ed and he said he will do it).

Summer Meeting Schedule

It was decided to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, with a start time of 7 pm.

Next meeting on June 7th at 7 pm.