

**Fayston Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**Present:** Akhil Kaplan, Patty Pasley, Corrie Miller, Ned Kelley, and Lisa Koitzsch

1. Akhil moved to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2022, meeting. Ned seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. FCC will invite potential new members to the next meeting: Amy Dalton, Brian Litmans, Ashley Madea, and Tyne Pike-Sprenger. There are two vacant seats on the FCC. Discussion of whether an at-large member would be allowed.
3. ARPA Summary for Select Board  
Corrie and Lisa will draft a letter to the Select Board with updates on the ARPA funded projects soon and send it out to FCC for input. Money has been allocated for these projects by the SB and FCC will provide them with periodic updates.
4. Updates
  - a. Community Visioning  
This project is now called the Conservation & Recreation Visioning Project. There is a 16-member Steering Committee co-chaired by Phil Huffman and Ross Saxton. The Committee will be working on a charge document, organizing working groups, and hiring a coordinator. Akhil Kaplan and Corrie Miller represent the FCC. The next meeting will likely be in January. The estimated project total budget is \$80k. \$40k was initially budgeted from the VOREC grant with an additional \$20K secured since the application was approved. \$5k was committed from Fayston ARPA funds (these will be used to match and leverage funds). A grant has recently been submitted to Lawson's Sunshine Fund.
  - b. Wildlife Corridor  
Lisa and Corrie have met with Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish and & Wildlife, and Aaron Worthley from Arrowwood Environmental to discuss the possible process for improving the existing wildlife habitat and corridor data for Fayston, following in the footsteps of Warren and Waitsfield, and building on past Forests, Wildlife, & Communities work. The next step will be for us to draft an RFQ and secure a consultant, with the estimated timeline of February 2023.
  - c. Knotweed  
This will be a pilot project that will draw on Waitsfield and Warren's existing Knotweed Removal programs. This will be a community-based project that will inventory Japanese Knotweed in the higher elevation reaches of Fayston, both on

roadsides and along streams. Once sites are identified, they will be prioritized for management. Inventory will likely be conducted using iNaturalist and management will be conducted with help from interns and community members as part of an “Adopt-a-site” program. Members also discussed controlling other invasive species such as Burning bush, Japanese barberry, Cow parsnip, etc.

d. McCullough Barn

Patty has reached out to several concrete contractors for bids to pour a concrete floor for the barn. The project will involve some excavation to even out the existing dirt floor, placement of insulating foam, and concrete. Kevin Streeter, the only contractor to respond so far, estimates a cost of around \$7-10k. FCC hopes to complete this project by summer of 2023.

Patty has offered to paint a mural for the outside of the barn to replace the one that fell off the building. Other ideas: art contest, student paintings, etc.

e. Boyce Hill

The management planning consultant continues to work with the Boyce Hill Steering Committee to develop a long-term management plan. The SC will meet with the Select Board on November 9th with a planned field trip a few days later. The consultant has focused most of her work on mapping and on management topic facilitation.

5. Next FCC meeting date will be Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The FCC will begin meeting regularly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month beginning in January.