

## Fayston Conservation Commission

### Minutes

March 22, 2023

1. Akhil moved to approve the minutes from January 19, 2023. Patty seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Patty moved to approve the minutes from February 23, 2023. Akhil seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
3. Knotweed Pilot Project
  - Akhil is working on getting the iNaturalist project site working.
  - The Knotweed Subcommittee (KSC) met 10 days ago and will hold another meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Monday, May 8 is scheduled as the first knotweed inventory day where the KSC and guests will begin inventorying knotweed across the town.
  - Patty has set up a project plan on Google Drive for KSC members to update.
  - Akhil is in contact with Harwood about students interested in helping.
4. Green Up Day
  - Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Andrea and Patty met with the Waitsfield GUD Coordinator recently.
  - GUD plan is to set up a tent near the new Chamber of Commerce office to make GUD more visible to the community and hopefully enlist more volunteers. Andrea will speak with Eric about this idea.
  - Andrea will bake banana bread and the FCC budget will pay for additional refreshments.
  - Should we do a contest?
  - The State is working towards doing more recycling for GUD and has some guidelines for coordinators.
5. Boyce Hill
  - SC is currently waiting on a second draft from management plan consultant.
  - Once this draft is reviewed, it will be sent to Vermont Land Trust for their review and input.
  - After that, the SC will hold a public hearing.
  - Continued discussions about governance and how to structure this.
6. CC membership status update
  - CC is holding two open slots until Boyce governance has been decided.
  - Lisa and Corrie will be meeting with Ashley Madea next week to talk about any projects she might get involved with.

- Getting volunteers involved with leading specific projects would be a helpful way to move projects forward.
7. Chase Brook
    - Discussion about mowing this summer. Possibly use funds from the Town Forest Reserve Fund.
    - Ross Saxton now runs a property management company and has offered to help mend the fence in the spring.
  8. Conservation & Recreation Visioning
    - Corrie reported that the CRV Ecological Working Group is finalizing a draft RFP for a consultant to help identify important ecological values in our community and how they are impacted by recreation.
    - One of the steps of the project is to identify and incorporate best management practices for protecting ecological resources while still having a thriving recreational network.
  9. Phen Basin
    - The Riders have withdrawn their proposal to the State for a new trail through Phen Basin. Ned Farquar had been misinformed by FPR and his editorial in the Valley Reporter stated that they had not.
    - Next steps are to monitor the Forest, Parks, and Recreation Natural Areas plan development and continue to follow opportunities to advocate for FPR to honor the intention of the Conservation Easement in the [Camel's Hump Management Unit Long-Range Management Plan](#).
  10. MRV Bear Initiative
    - Bear story contest received 11 entries. These will be published at some point on the Chamber of Commerce website, the Valley Reporter, and FPF.
    - April 15<sup>th</sup>, Ben Kilham of the Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, NH will give a presentation on his work with orphan bear cubs. The talk will be from 3-5PM at Sugarbush.
    - Amy will take over as FCC Rep to the Bear Initiative next month.
  11. Tri-Town CC Meeting
    - April 6<sup>th</sup> at Flatbread at 5:30PM, hosted by Waitsfield CC.
    - Corrie and Andrea will present on behalf of Fayston and will cover the major projects we are working on.
  12. Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Corrie will be away.