

Fayston Conservation Commission

MINUTES

April 26, 2023

Present via Zoom: Akhil Kaplan, Patty Pasley, Amy Dalton, Lisa Koitzsch, and Andrea Henderson

1. Akhil moved to approve the minutes from March 22, 2023. Patty seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.
2. Project Updates
 - a. Tri-Town Conservation Commission Meeting
April 6 at Flatbread. Corrie, Amy, and Andrea attended on behalf of FCC. Town updates from Waitsfield, Warren and Fayston. Corrie reported on Boyce Hill and Andrea spoke about Fayston's knotweed efforts. Conservation & Recreation Visioning update from Corrie and Phil Huffman. The meeting was recorded by MRVTV.
 - b. Green Up Day
Saturday, May 6th. Patty is distributing bags and signing people up for routes. She has initiated can collection in clear bags to benefit the Mad River Valley Interfaith Council. The Road Crew will be picking up trash bags on Monday the 8th. Patty and Andrea, along with Eric Friedman, are organizing the inaugural "Green Valley Rally" being held at the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center. Collaborative event featuring Green Up Day and volunteer sign ups. BBQ (with vegetarian options) from 12-2 for volunteers. Amy will pick up trash on Tucker Hill.
 - c. Boyce Hill
The Steering Committee and contractor have sent a draft management plan to the Vermont Land Trust. They are reviewing the draft plan next week. Once it is returned from VLT, the SC will review the plan again before scheduling a public hearing. Patty asked if stewardMRV would have a steward at Boyce Hill. Lisa suggested getting a steward for the Hedgehog Brook (Burn Rock) trailhead.
 - d. Chase Brook
Kevin Streeter finished installing the concrete floor in the barn and Ky Koitzsch replaced the main interior post. Patty will ask Tom Spencer about stewardMRV purchasing picnic tables for the trailhead. Discussion about getting someone to mow a couple of times this summer around the barn and the parking area (Patty will get some quotes), and how to get the word out about increasing barn use (Akhil will talk to Bob Kogut of Mad River Riders re: a bike tool station), Lisa will investigate town requirements for insurance, alcohol, portalets, etc.). Ross Saxton is helping stewardMRV fix the fence and Patty will be the steward again! Amy offered to help review the current management plan and determine if we need to initiate an update. FCC will schedule a workday soon to work on the Fred Gilbert Dog Loop.
 - e. Knotweed Pilot Project
Lisa and Andrea met recently with Curt Lindbergh (Waitsfield) and Jito Coleman (Warren). The tri-town conservation commissions will be applying for a grant from the VT DEC: Flood Resilience Community Fund. The focus will be on knotweed eradication and riparian plantings

on the mainstem of the Mad River, a GIS coordinator, and more specific monitoring. Fayston could receive funds for Japanese knotweed removal efforts from this grant so that we could push to spend some of the ARPA funds next year. Curt will submit the grant. He has been consulting with Ira Shadis of Friends of the Mad River.

Fayston will have the 7 UVM interns (and 1 coordinator - Ashley) every other Wednesday and will keep a close eye on the budget so that we don't exceed the money allotted to us from the ARPA funds. Andrea plans to solicit help from volunteers on Wednesdays (4-6PM) and is planning a Front Porch Forum announcement. The first day with interns is June 7th. Andrea suggested a Chase Brook community knotweed removal day on June 7th. The more intense knotweed work will happen in the beginning of the summer and each site will get repeat visits throughout the summer.

FCC members will be meeting in the parking area at the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center on Friday, May 5th at 8 AM to begin inventorying Japanese knotweed in Fayston. We will need to identify priority sites in the next few weeks.

Waitsfield/Warren will share signs and worksheets with us, so we don't need to re-invent the wheel. Waitsfield will also buy some supplies for the interns and share these with the other two towns. Fayston may purchase some weed sickles for the volunteers to use. FCC will also purchase knotweed stickers so that we can mark each knotweed removal site. Lisa and Andrea will collect wooden stakes and some pallets for the project.

There will be a signup sheet at the Green Valley Rally to hopefully get knotweed volunteers. Akhil set up an iNaturalist project and volunteers will be encouraged to note areas of infestation.

f. MRV Bear Initiative

Amy will be taking over Lisa's role on the Bear Initiative. The group meets every 4th Tuesday at 9 am. At the meeting yesterday, members reviewed Ben Kilham's presentation at Sugarbush, discussed future presentations, and heard from John Malter, Mad River Resource Management Alliance, on his efforts to help the community keep bears away from trash and compost. He will be holding a composting workshop at the Waitsfield Town Office on June 3rd at 10AM. Lisa and Amy will be at the Waitsfield Farmer's Market on June 17th to speak to market visitors about bears. Amy will brainstorm an appropriate game for the event.

3. Next FCC meeting is May 24th, 6:30 PM. Lisa will be away.