

Fayston Conservation Commission

MINUTES

May 24, 2023

FCC members present: Amy Dalton, Corrie Miller, Patty Pasley

FCC members absent: Lisa Koitzsch

Public present: Andrea Henderson, Knotweed Project Coordinator

1. Approve minutes from April 26, 2023 at the next meeting.
2. Project Updates
 - a. Green Up Day – Patty & Andrea
 - i. GUD Statistics - Patty
 1. ~55 volunteers (including 15 GMVS students & staff)
 2. All Fayston roads cleaned
 3. ~65 bags (117 last year)
 4. 39 tires (17 last year) - are people leaving their own tires out for GUD pick up?
 5. ~25 bags of returnable cans → \$58 donation to MRV Interfaith Council
 - ii. Green Valley Rally - The inaugural event was a success. Tent and sign were great. 10 Fayston residents expressed interest in helping with knotweed management. Lots of collaboration and learning - Chamber, MRVRC, MRV Bear Initiative, stewardMRV. ~ 60% of the people that stopped by the tent were Fayston residents.
 - iii. Andrea will start an Excel email list with knotweed contacts, and Patty will add her GUD contacts. We should maintain an FCC mailing list.
 - b. Knotweed Pilot Project - Andrea
 - i. Meetings, pallet and stake collection, collaboration with Waitsfield and Warren CC
 - ii. 91 observations on Fayston Knotweed iNaturalist site; identified suggested priority sites (with the understanding that we won't catch them all)
 - iii. See Andrea's summary notes copied below
 - iv. Patty has noticed that areas that were cut last year have not grown back as vigorously this year
 - v. Initial inventory has been pretty thorough; Focus this summer is on managing priority patches
 - vi. Andrea is working on text for FPF, Town List-Serve Email and will send to us for feedback.
 - vii. Wednesday work days: June 7, 21; July 12, 26; Aug 9 (23?) with the UVM interns

- viii. Discussion of priorities - small sites that are currently manageable; small, manageable sites along streams that are moving knotweed downstream; publicly visible sites
- ix. Assess after first work day to see if we can add more
- x. Summer internship with Rachel Potts at Harwood
- c. Conservation & Recreation Visioning (CRV) - Corrie
 - i. Balance recreation and conservation - think about impacts of trail building on landscape scale
 - ii. Save the Date: June 15, 5-8 pm - Community Forum - American Flatbread
5 pm potluck, forum 6-8 pm
- d. Boyce Hill – Corrie
 - i. VLT has reviewed management plan and provided input; asked for more clarity around riparian buffers
 - ii. BHTF SC will be revising management plan, making final decision, and sending draft to SB in next few weeks; late June or early July SB meeting/public hearing anticipated
 - iii. If Woody joins the FCC, he will provide continuity between the Steering Committee and the future Stewardship Committee.
- e. Chase Brook – Patty & Amy
 - i. Management plan - Lisa and Amy went on a hike there; observed that bikers are taking short/fun cuts and in places that aren't official trails; signage is a little confusing; Amy is reviewing management plan that is overdue for an update
 - ii. Patty reached out to Fayston Elementary to see if they are interested in stewardship; took the old signs down and put them in the barn; updating these signs would be a good future project - either for the school or a summer program
 - iii. Powder post beetle treatment tomorrow
 - iv. Ross Saxton - will do mowing - \$40/ 2-3 weeks
 - v. How do we get the word out about the barn as an accessible space? Lisa is investigating and Patty is checking in with her about that.
 - vi. Corrie mentioned gravel wetland that was proposed as stormwater mitigation for Fayston School - we may want to revisit this.
 - vii. Andrea suggested an intern to work on trail signs, maintaining nature trails, etc. Corrie cautioned that interns do require a good bit of management.
- f. Mad River Bear Initiative - Amy
 - i. Bear story project by MRV -> considering how to get stories out to public; Amy suggested Moth Story Hour; conversation about involving students; using local places as venues

- ii. Timing element discussed to match what neighbors are experiencing with bears at what time.
3. Consider Potential New Members: Andrea Henderson and Woody Dugan
 - a. Andrea expressed her heartfelt interest and commitment in joining the Conservation Commission.
 - b. Patty made a motion to go into executive session, Amy seconded.
 - c. Patty made a motion to come out of executive session, Amy seconded.
 - d. Woody was not able to attend and the FCC wants to hear from him before we recommend his membership.
 - e. Patty made a motion to recommend Andrea to the SB for membership on the FCC; Corrie seconded.
4. Next Meeting: **June 28th, 2023**

Fayston Knotweed Subcommittee meeting 5/22/2023

Updates to committee:

- iNaturalist Fayston Knotweed Project has 91 Observations
- 7-8 pallets have been collected and stored behind McCullough barn. These will be used to dry knotweed.
- 20-30 wooden stakes are at Andrea's garage and McCullough barn - these will be used for knotweed signs.
- Surveyed Chase Brook and German Flats with Ned & Judi
- Surveyed Bragg Hill and Top of the Valley with Amanda Melville
- Freeze temporarily assisted with knotweed management 😊, helped further identify infestations
- WCC sent UVM interns MRV 2023 Perennial Work Plan and schedule for week of June 5th
- Scheduled orientation with UVM lead intern, Ashley Cray on June 1, 2
- Scheduled Fayston dates for UVM interns are Wednesdays 12-6 with volunteer window 4-6
 - o June 7, 21
 - o July 12,26
 - o Aug 9, potentially 23 if still working

Agenda/Action:

- Identify priority sites
- Discuss communications (FPF, Fayston listserv, direct email to interested residents, Valley Reporter)
- Discuss June 7th, first UVM intern work day in Fayston and volunteer window
- Supplies needed
- Stickers – design/order – Patty
- Stakes – collect – all
- Heavy plastic – Patty may have some

- Hand sickles - Andrea

iNaturalist Fayston Knotweed Project map as of 5.23.2023, with potential priority sites circled in red

1. Town Office
2. North Fayston Road
3. Center Fayston Road
4. Bragg Hill/Top of the Valley and above tennis court
6. Rt 17/German Flats
7. German Flats (Ned & Judi former Adopt-Some-Knot)
8. Mt Ellen/Barton
9. German Flats past Mt Ellen access road - culvert