

Fayston Conservation Commission

MINUTES

June 28, 2023

Present via Zoom: Patty Pasley, Corrie Miller, Lisa Koitzsch, Amy Dalton, Woody Dugan, Andrea Henderson (phone), and Pete Colgan (phone)

1. Patty moved to approve the minutes from April 26, 2023, and May 24, 2023. Corrie seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Discussion of FCC membership and consideration of two new members: Woody Dugan and Pete Colgan.
 - a. FCC discussed Lisa stepping down on August 15th and Corrie's departure soon after that. Concerns were raised regarding how to move forward without institutional knowledge or ecological expertise, what projects were a priority, how administrative functions would be tackled, and if there was any mandate dictating what the CC's role was within town government.
 - b. Lisa will send out the FCC mission statement to all. It needs to be updated as it still relates to the Fayston Natural Resources Committee.
 - c. Lisa moved to go into Executive Session, Corrie seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
 - d. Lisa moved to come out of Executive Session, Patty seconded. All in favor, motion approved.
 - e. Discussion re: Woody and Pete representing the FCC in all matters regarding Boyce Hill. All agreed that this would be their primary task as members of the FCC.
 - f. Lisa met with the Select Board on 6/27 and pending FCC approval, they will appoint Woody and Pete to the FCC at their meeting on July 11.
 - g. Lisa made a motion to approve Woody Dugan and Pete Colgan as new members of the FCC. Patty seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
3. Project Updates
 - a. Knotweed Pilot Project
 - i. Andrea declared the second community Knotweed Day a success with 5 volunteers participating along with the UVM interns. The crew tackled knotweed patches on German Flats and a very large area on Barton Road.
 - ii. The next workday is scheduled for July 12th and the crews will meet at the Town Offices at noon and will be working on N. Fayston Rd. and the town gravel pit at the top of Sharpshooter Road.
 - iii. The crew has completed sample measurements to include in the valley wide data.
 - b. Conservation & Recreation Visioning
 - i. Corrie provided a summary of the CRV forum held on June 15th at Flatbread. Almost 100 people attended to hear the CRV Steering Committee report on their progress to-date and to engage the attendees in roundtable discussions.

- ii. The Steering Committee will spend some time processing the information that was gathered at the forum. There will likely be two or more forums in the future.
- c. Boyce Hill

The public forum for the Draft Management Plan will be held Thursday, June 29th. The Steering Committee will present the plan to the public and answer questions. The comment period for the plan ends July 10th at noon. The SC will meet sometime after that to review the comments received.
- d. Chase Brook
 - i. Amy contacted Liza Walker on June 9 re updating the Chase Brook Mgt plan. Due to Liza's imminent departure from VLT, no date to meet has been set. Lisa mentioned contacting Caitlin Cusack of VLT and will send Amy her contact info.
 - ii. Patty continues to keep the area around the barn and parking area looking beautiful!
- e. MRV Bear Initiative
 - i. Amy reported that the committee met recently and discussed future speakers, Farmer's Market dates, and another writing contest.
 - ii. The Initiative is considering a presentation and/or signage at major trailheads to better inform people how to travel in bear country and how to respond to bears in the event of an encounter. Mad River Path is a potential partner in this effort.
 - iii. Margo Wade will distribute letters asking our funding partners, including FCC, for a \$500 annual contribution. Corrie asked how the funds are used and Amy will provide more details at the August FCC meeting.
- 4. Other Business?
 - a. Lisa will invite Mischa Goldman, the new Executive Director of the Mad River Path, to our next meeting.
 - b. Lisa will also invite Martha Veselka, Fayston's new tree warden, to the meeting.
- 5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 26th, 2023, at 6:30 PM in person at the McCullough Barn on German Flats Road or at the Fayston Municipal Office.