

Fayston Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 26, 2023

Present: Lisa Koitzsch, Corrie Miller, Pete Colgan, Patty Pasley, Amy Dalton, and Andrea Henderson

Guest: Misha Golfman, Executive Director, Mad River Path

1. Corrie moved to approve the minutes from June 28, 2023, and Andrea seconded. There was no further discussion, all voted in favor, and the motion was approved.
2. Guest: Misha Golfman, Executive Director, Mad River Path
 - a. Introduced the VT 100 Corridor Vision Project from the Mad River Path.
 - b. Shared use path running along Route 100 between Moretown and Warren. He stressed the importance of an alternative transportation corridor.
 - c. The first step is a scoping project to determine how feasible this project would be.
 - d. Corrie expressed concern about adding impervious surfaces in areas of constriction along the river corridor. This would likely cause more issues with flooding upstream and downstream. Supportive of a scoping study that looked at environmental impacts and how to reduce them.
3. FCC Logo
 - a. Patty Pasley designed a beautiful and simple logo for the FCC that will be used for signage, educational materials, etc.
 - b. Lisa spoke to the Select Board, and they said FCC does not need their permission to adopt the logo.
 - c. Andrea moved to accept the fiddlehead design as the official FCC logo, Patty seconded. All expressed their appreciation for Patty's work and voted unanimously to approve the motion.
4. Project Updates
 - a. Knotweed Project – Andrea
 - i. UVM Interns are creating a Fayston knotweed map from the iNaturalist data.
 - ii. 4th day of knotweed work with the interns – German Flats, Chase Brook, Barton Road – 3 volunteers.
 - iii. Patty worked on the ditch on Bragg Hill Rd and tackled the steep embankment across from Top of the Valley Rd.
 - iv. The UVM interns will be tabling at the Farmer's Market this coming Saturday.
 - v. Corrie mentioned that past knowledge of knotweed management indicated that cutting when shoots reached 10" was the most effective way of controlling this invasive. She asked if the other towns are having success in their knotweed efforts despite cutting at all stages of growth.
 - vi. Andrea said that it is hard to tell in Fayston as this is our first year. She commented that judicious cutting at any stage does slow down the growth process and that the other towns have found this to be true. She is also discovering that other species are growing in areas where knotweed has been reduced. Patty commented that

repeated weed whacking helped at Chase Brook. Andrea is going ask Jito and Curt about the 10" stipulation.

- vii. The interns are also working on articles, data mapping, social media (Instagram and TikTok), and public education.
 - viii. Next (and last) workday is on August 9th.
 - ix. Corrie mentioned that Curt was successful in adding knotweed management to Waitsfield's road budget. This could be a good avenue for FCC to pursue with our Select Board during the budgeting process in November.
- b. Conservation & Recreation Visioning - Corrie
- i. Corrie has been chairing the Ecological Integrity Working Group. Ira Shadis, Friends of the Mad River, will be starting as co-chair soon so that Corrie can step back from her leadership position.
 - ii. Data from the first public input forum will come out soon in summary form.
- c. Boyce Hill – Pete
- i. SC is meeting tomorrow night to review public input on the draft management plan and determine what aspects to include in the final plan.
 - ii. Pete weed whacked around the cellar hole this weekend. He is concerned that we are falling behind on stewardship projects as we try to complete the management plan.
 - iii. Amy asked if the process could go on for some time with more opportunity for public input. Corrie and Lisa reviewed the public input opportunities provided over the past 3 years and said the SC will no longer be accepting public input. However, when the final plan is presented to the Select Board, there will be an opportunity in that forum for public input.
- d. Chase Brook – Amy and Patty
- i. Patty has continued weed whacking at the barn and parking area.
 - ii. Patty would like to promote public use of the barn (gathering spot, educational venue, etc.) and purchase two picnic tables for the far side of the parking area. Lisa noted that there is money in the ARPA budget for the picnic tables.
 - iii. Corrie noted that the income from rental should go into the Town Forest Reserve Fund.
 - iv. Andrea mentioned the need to fill the holes left behind by the removal of fence posts.
 - v. Amy met with Liza Walker and Caitlin Cusack of the Vermont Land Trust about updating the management plan. They provided a lot of information and a list of names to help us in the process.
 - 1. Some people to meet with: Robert Nelson, Washington County Forester; Mad River Path; Mad River Riders; Friends of the Mad River; and Catamount Trail Association.
 - 2. Two-pronged approach for determining initial values: forestry and habitat assessment and recreational access.

- e. MRV Bear Initiative – Amy
 - i. Amy will send the 2022 Report and Financials as well as the 2023 Budget to the FCC.
 - ii. No July meeting.
 - iii. Lisa and Amy tabled at the Farmer’s Market on July 15th and will do so again on August 5th. Need to collect names and info at the next one. And what about a bear costume??
- 5. FCC member transition details
 - a. Lisa’s end date will be August 15, 2023. Corrie will continue with the FCC but will be stepping back from a leadership position.
 - b. FCC guidance documents on Google Drive for members to access, including templates for agenda and minutes, transition document, mission statement, Conservation Reserve Fund Guidelines, budget details, etc.
 - c. New committee assignments will need to be made: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chair could set the agenda and run the meeting, the Secretary can do the minutes, etc. Corrie can fill in temporarily and both Lisa and Corrie are available for any help moving forward. Pete and Woody will be focused on Boyce Hill.
 - d. Patty asked for clarification on what is being asked of the remaining commission members and expressed that she was feeling a bit overwhelmed. Amy, Andrea, and Patty will meet in early August to discuss how to take over some of the FCC tasks and the discussion will continue at the next FCC meeting.
 - e. Some important items to review and explain:
 - i. Future potential projects
 - ii. Relationship and interaction with Select Board
 - iii. Budgeting process and Treasurer role
 - iv. How to handle FCC email and communication
 - v. Administration of agendas and minutes
 - vi. Develop systems to handle all these issues.
 - f. Amy and Patty expressed that they want their work with FCC to be meaningful.
 - g. Corrie and Lisa will continue work on their transition document. Will add a calendar.
 - h. Patty will develop an agenda for the next meeting and the meeting will focus on the above items. Before the next meeting, all agreed to review the transition documents.
- 6. Next Meeting: Meetings normally fall on the 4th Wednesday of every month. However, because a few people will not be able to attend the August meeting, it is now scheduled for **August 30, 2023, at 6:00.**