

Fayston Conservation Commission
August 30, 2023, 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Fayston Municipal Office

Members Present: Patty Pasley, Andrea Henderson, Amy Dalton, Pete Colgan, Woody Dugan, Corrie Miller, Lisa Koitsch

Members Present via Zoom: None

Members Absent: None

Public/Guests: None

1. Minutes approved

Andrea moved to approve minutes from July 26, 2023. Patty seconded. No further discussion/comments. All voted in favor and motion was approved.

Note: Minutes & agenda to be shared via Google Docs so all can add/revise/etc.

2. New Officers - Officer Transitions

a. Deep thanks to Lisa K for her service to FCC. She'll continue to attend meetings when possible. There will be a small celebration to acknowledge her. Date/location TBD ([Amy](#), [Andrea](#) and [Patty](#) to coordinate details).

b. Corrie's role: member of FCC w/focus on CRV project.

c. Roles (chair, co-chair, treasurer, etc) do not need to be approved by Selectboard.

Patty: Co-Chair

Andrea: Co-chair role and treasurer

Amy: Secretary

Pete and Woody will focus on Boyce Hill Stewardship committee work (pending until approval of BH management plan). Pete is amenable to taking on other duties beyond that of Boyce Hill.

Note: Patty views her role as Chairperson temporary.

d. Pete moved to approve the above proposal for new FCC roles. Woody seconded. All voted in favor and motion was approved.

e. Recruiting New Members:

Commission can have up to 7 people along with an alternate member. Ashley Madea (sp?) has expressed interest in being an alternate member.

Discussion regarding where to place notice of open seats (e.g. FT Listserv, Volunteer Lists).

Members will have one-on-one conversations with potentially interested parties. Google Drive list with names of FCC candidates to be created ([Patty](#)). All members to add candidates as they arise.

3. Project Updates

- a. Knotweed - Andrea: Community KW day Aug. 29 from 4 to 6pm (included 3 FCC members and 1 volunteer). Work site: German Flats Bend where work has been done earlier. Andrea left an email for Stuart on the town road crew to request hydroseeding. Knotweed is more easily pulled at this stage making seeding more effective. Andrea will be generating a report following all the KW work over the summer including the map, intern work. Patty would like to see the report shared with the Fayston Town listserv. Lisa suggested reporting first before the Selectboard. Following the presentation to the Selectboard, information can be disseminated to the public. Woody raised some concerns about the KW map as some of the lines (driveways) could be misinterpreted as roads. Overall, the map is valuable to the town and roadcrew. Andrea would like to post maps at other sites including smother sites, drying racks along with other informative information.

- b. Conservation & Recreation Visioning – Corrie: An RFP has been released. (<https://www.vrpa.org/resources/Documents/CRV%20RFP%20Phase%201.pdf>) Deadline is 9/1. Support for two working groups (Ecological Integrity and Recreation) as they dive into how best to protect ecological integrity in context of trails and build a strong trail network. Two groups will put the work together after the contractor provides research and best practices. Next public forum (three required) will be Dec. or Jan. Write up following first forum will be available soon.

- c. Boyce Hill - Pete and Woody: Pending BH mgt plan approval (Last SB mtg in September), there will be a BH Stewardship committee for planning purposes along with an ad hoc “worker bee” committee. Nine people have expressed interested in BH work on 9/16-17. Volunteers are being recruited from BH & ToF listserv. If more needed, then FPF. Trail to West wall with mower and tree trimming. Throughout stone fences/corral, saplings and other growth are obscuring cultural artifacts/features. Information is being gathered on chemical (triclopyr) application to control vegetation through direct means. Caitlin Cusack w/ VLT contacted for information on this chemical for woody plant control. VLT recommended an herbicide as most beneficial method of control. Five years ago, Glyphosate application in a native plant riparian buffer restoration project in the Valley elicited a strong community backlash. For BH, the application would be minimal but would need to be fully disclosed to the public. Lisa encouraged Pete and Woody to gather information and move forward with complete transparency. Corrie to share a short video, Invasives (presents a pro herbicide perspective) (Here: <https://www.mcht.org/go/invasives/>).

- d. Chase Brook - Patty: knotweed pulled, mowed periodically, picnic table was mysteriously fixed and painted. Trash is problematic - full of water, dog poop bags. Consider purchasing a metal can w/lid or a dog station. Patty to seek funds from Steward MRV. Consult Ross re: garbage removal. Misha/Mad River Trail and Mad River Riders might also have resources available to address garbage issues.
- e. MRV Bears - Amy: Priority is information campaign to inform homeowners, guests and second homeowners how to deter bears. Tabling at Sept. 9 Waitsfield market. Discussed other venues for Bear Initiative tabling 2024.

4. Upcoming Events:

Sept 14 - Pollinators at Lareau Farm

Oct. 19 - Ecological Forest Management at Big Picture

5. Other Business: Patty asked about FCC email and who would be receiving/responding to them. Pete is on email list. faystonconservation@madriver.com is the FCC email address. Ok to respond via personal email or town of Fayston email. Once we decide who will be fielding emails, Patti Lewis with the town office needs to be notified. Patty would like to plan a discussion re: FCC mission and core values for 2024. Corrie is looking to transition off the FCC and out of a leadership on the CRV so no date certain for when she'll step away from the FCC.

6. Next Meeting: **September 27, 2023, 6:00-7:00p**