

Fayston Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2024, 5:45 - 6:30 pm
Meeting Held at Town Offices and via Zoom

Members Present: Andrea Henderson, Amy Dalton, Brian Litmans, Patty Pasley
Members Not Present: Woody Dugan, Pete Colgan, Corrie Miller

Minutes Approved

- Andrea moved to approve. Amy seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor.

FCC Budget Administration

- FCC budget requests vs Selectboard proposed budget:
 - a. Municipal Bldgs (McCullough Barn) - \$300 requested / assume \$300 incl in \$5k Muni Bldg Budget
 - b. Fayston Conservation Commission (acct #5706) - \$1,500 requested / \$1,500 incl in SB proposed budget
 - c. Conservation Reserve Fund (acct #3030) - \$8,000 requested / \$3,500 incl in SB proposed budget
 - d. Invasive Species Management - \$5,000 requested / zero incl in SB proposed budget
 - e. Town Forest Reserve Fund (acct #3032) - \$18,700 requested / \$12,000 incl in SB proposed budget
- There is consensus among the commission that it would be unlikely for us to obtain additional funding at the Mar 5, 2024 Town Meeting to make up for the significant reduction in our budget requests. We may need to re-prioritize planned projects given the smaller than requested budget funding. This coming year can be an opportunity to build a stronger campaign, better positioning the FCC to make an appeal for funds critical to protecting the community (e.g. flood resilience)
- Fundraising idea: Notecards to benefit the 3 CCs and showcasing local artists. Andrea will propose this to Waitsfield and Warren CCs.
- Town Forest Reserve funds, GoFundMe funds, fundraising \$, and volunteer hours can be used toward the non-federal match for the LCBP grant. Remaining ARPA funds allocated to Knotweed Pilot Project (\$1,295.54) can be used to pay interns, but will not be considered toward the non-federal match of the LCBP grant.
- A GoFundMe effort could be best launched at the Green Valley Rally on Green Up Day, May 4, 2024. Given fiscal constraints, we could promote this as a much needed fundraising campaign to bridge the gap. Andrea will be the point person to lead the GoFundMe campaign. Patty, Brian and Amy will collaborate on the details. **Coffee meeting at 3 Mountain Cafe @ 7:30, March 8.**

Project Updates

- **MRV Bear Initiative:**
 - Visitor/Landlord Toolkit developed with information on how to handle waste, raise awareness, etc - 50 will be produced for distribution initially.
 - Organizational/strategic meeting will be held on March 26 (Time TBD - 2 hrs).
 - Great Amazing Bear Contest update - Just a few entries to date, contest ends March 10, 2024; publicized in Stark Mtn Foundation newsletter, FPF, VR articles, MRV Planning District webpage - <https://mrvpd.org/2024/02/01/great-amazing-bear-story-contest/>, and MRV Chamber calendar - <https://www.madrivervalley.com/event/bear-story-contest-art-poems-kids-prizes/2024-02-06/>, and MRV Bear Initiative webpage - <https://www.madrivervalley.com/stewardmrvt/living-with-bears/5-great-amazing-bear-contest/>
 - FMR Book Club update - next Climate and Ecology Book Discussion Tues, March 12 at 6:30pm at Joslin Memorial Library - 'The Bear', by Andrew Krivak - <https://www.friendsofthemadrivervalley.org/news> -
- **Invasives/Knotweed:**
 - Town of Waitsfield's LCBP grant application approved and awarded. Project plan approved by Waitsfield SB, submitted to LCBP, and approved. Awaiting contract.
 - Met with Fayston SB re CC budget requests Jan 29
 - Meeting/Valley tour re invasives work in the MRV to date and LCBP grant held Feb 19 with Curt Lindberg and Gail O'Keefe, Waitsfield CC, Jito Coleman, Warren CC, Mariano Rodriguez-Cabal and Noelia Barrios-Garcia, UVM Rubenstein School, Hans Estrin, UVM Extension, Sonia DeYoung, UVM Field Naturalist Program
 - Next meeting to be held Feb 29 at UVM with same group, Walter Poleman, UVM Ecological Planning Laboratory, and Brian Colleran, Ecological Land Management
 - Intern and project coordinator interviews scheduled for Feb 29th at UVM
 - Tri-Town CC response to letter to the editor in VR on Jan 25, 2024 [In response to Ben Falk](#)
 - Presentation to Mountain Gardeners Feb 13 re Tri-Town Knotweed Program, and shared Fayston, Waitsfield, and Warren 2023 Knotweed Reports, and VT Fish & Wildlife Knotweed informational links
- **Conservation and Rec Visioning:**
 - Steering Committee met on Wednesday, Jan 24 to discuss the Work Plan (a document that sets out tasks and objectives for 2024)
 - Community Learning Session held on Feb 6 with Meredith Naughton
 - CRV anticipates hosting additional Community Learning Sessions this spring, as well as a Community Forum
 - Brian will meet with Ira on Feb 29 to understand participants and data response but more time is needed to determine how the FCC can be involved and proactive in these efforts.
- **Green Valley Rally/Green Up Day - May 4, 2024:**
 - FPF post to enlist volunteers in clean-up of one mile of Rt. 100 South from Rt. 17 to be part of the World Record attempt. Sponsorship of this

mile is \$100 and was paid by Andrea. The Commission will reimburse this payment.

Other: MRV CCs are hosting Focus group on implementation of the Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act “30x30 legislation” to be held on March 20, from 6:30 - 8pm at Waitsfield Town Hall

Next meeting scheduled for March 27, 5:45-7:00pm

Patty made a motion to adjourn at 6:30. Motion seconded by Andrea, all in favor.