

Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

5:45 - 6:45 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

- Call to Order at 5:45
- Minutes approved by motion from Andrea, Amy seconded. Pete and Woody abstained. Brian, Andrea and Amy in favor.
- No public input
- FCC Administration
 - New commissioner recruitment
 - Brian to look in Google drive for past postings as well as past postings for Waitsfield and Warren.
 - Mad River Valley Green Valley Rally will provide an opportunity to advertise and connect with prospective candidates. A sign will be displayed to notify participants about the opening
 - Woody will draft a FPF post for review/editing by FCC members
 - Woody will draft a vacancy announcement to be published in the Valley Reporter
 - Tri-CC meeting
 - Andrea met with Curt and Jito.
 - George Shenk is willing to host on an upcoming Thursday in April or May at Lareau Farm Inn.
 - Brian and Amy will be away from May 4-17
 - Pete is available late April (18, 25) and late May (23 and 30th)
 - Andrea & Woody's schedules are open
 - The purpose of this meeting is for each CC to provide updates on projects and goals
 - We hope to launch a Go-Fund Me or RallyUp type of campaign to bolster the FCC budget.
 - The Select Board has requested the following in order to approve this action:
 - A review of the narrative that associated with this campaign
 - A clear statement of what the intended use of the

funds is

- NOTE: All agree that these funds will be used for our work on invasives.
- Who/how will the thank you for donation letters go out.
 - NOTE: Most fundraising platforms automatically send an acknowledgment when donations are made.
- Pete will look into platforms to determine which is best for this campaign.
- Andrea will work with the SB and Patti Lewis to determine where donations will be deposited. Andrea will bring the proposal to the SB meeting on April 9.

Project updates

MRV Bear Initiative

- Strategic Planning and regular business meeting held at Sugarbush Mt. Ellen, Glen Ellen Room, March 26th, 3-5pm
- Attendees were briefed on how the initiative was formed. There was a discussion of standardizing signage across the Valley.
- The Initiative will continue to include Duxbury, Moretown, Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren along with Friends of the Mad River, and not expand at this time
- Information on the BI will continue to reside on the MRV Chamber site
- The decision was made not to create a MRV Bear Initiative specific Instagram account. Friends of Mad River will post/repost bear specific info.

Invasives/Knotweed

- Intern and project coordinator interviews were held Feb 29th at UVM. Offers were extended, with seven currently accepted. A second round of candidates will be considered for the project coordinator position.
- Andrea met with Curt Lindberg, Waitsfield CC, Jito Coleman, Warren CC, Mariano Rodriguez-Cabal and Noelia Barrios-Garcia, UVM Rubenstein School, Hans Estrin, UVM Extension, Walt Poleman, UVM Extension, on Feb 29th at UVM to advance collaboration with professors and potential additional collaborations around GIS.
- Brian Colleran will work with interns and host a community session scheduled for June 4th
- There will be a Northeast Regional Invasive Species & Climate Change (NE RISCC) Listening Session: Chemical and Mechanical Control of Invasives with Climate Change, April 2nd @ 12 noon - To join, register at this link:
<https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckce-vrDgrGd2fn0nMgN2rRwCmApL9QURj>

Boyce Hill

- Invitations to join the Boyce Hill Committee are going out this week.
- FCC canceled the pruning workshop due to mud and weather.
- Signage is the next priority. Current signage is not consistent with the Plan.
- There have been motorized vehicles on the property (snowmobiles last week; ATV use on the sap lines via unofficial grandfathered rights). There will be ongoing discussion about how to approach these issues.

Chase Brook Town Forest

Maintenance: StewardMRV will not pick up the cost of mowing Chase Brook this summer.

Update to the Management Plan:

- Amy will reach out to Robert Nelson in late May/June.
- Mead Binhammer, Vermont Land Trust Project Director, will be visiting Chase Brook as well as Boyce Hill for annual monitoring this Spring/Summer. He suggested that commission members schedule a group walk.
- Woody will reach out to set a time for FCC to meet.
- Alicia Daniel, Vermont Master Naturalist Program Director, is available to consult and support the process of updating the management plan. After a cursory look at the plan, she noted that the ecology is solid with natural communities included and that there is good baseline trails data. She suggested that FCC reach out to Grace Glynn, Botanist w/VT Fish & Wildlife Dept, as well as Liz Thompson, ecologist/botanist, with more specific questions that arise as the process unfolds.
- Misha Golfman with MadRiver Path suggested that Amy reach out to Mad River Riders and Catamount Trail Assoc. to survey trails. Amy will follow up with them.

Conservation and Recreation Visioning

- EIWG met 3/20 to review the "Current Conditions." The next step is to prepare "Desired Conditions." Brian will circulate the draft with commission for feedback.
- Next meeting 3/28 to review Arrowood data layers and discuss next steps. Upcoming meetings - first week of May for a Steering Committee meeting and a spring Community Forum the last week of May. NOTE: Brian will be unable to make the Steering Comm meeting the first week of May.

Green Valley Rally / Green Up Day

- Green Up Day plans are progressing. Banners in Andrea's hands, and sign ups on Bri Skoldberg's hands. Patty will jump back into planning when she returns home April 7.
- Andrea spoke with John at Sign Design and will send language and general format for banners Green Valley Rally/Green Up Day ASAP. John will prepare a mock up and provide pricing.

Wildlife Corridors

- Andrea spoke with Jens Hilke, VT Fish & Wildlife. He is available to meet with FCC at April or May meetings. Andrea to invite him to April 24th meeting.
- Andrea and Brian to meet with Corrie on April 3 to better understand past work.
- BioFinder and CRV Arrowood data set is an important source of data.
- Andrea shared a list of links regarding wildlife corridors.

Other

Andrea is moving forward with banners for GreenUp day.

Items for next month's agenda:

- Invite Jens for a presentation

No other business discussed.

Next Meeting: **April 24, 2024 at 5:45pm**

Motion to adjourn made at 6:55 by Andrea. Woody seconded. Motion approved.