Fayston Conservation Commission Agenda

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

5:45 - 7:00 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Call to Order**
   5:49pm
   Present: Patty, Pete, Brian, Andrea, Amy, Woody

2. **Approve minutes from May 22, 2024**
   Patty moved to accept the version on the Town of Fayston page. Amy will correct the minutes in the FCC google docs

3. **Public input**
   none

4. **FCC Administration**
   a. Priorities - summary of all member's thoughts
      *Management/maintenance of both town forests including a vision for what they should be and who will use them
      *Continued representation on CRV important due to level of expertise and collaborative opportunities among towns
      *Bear initiative representation aligns with FCC commitment to educate and collaborate
      *Green up day - Important for outreach and community involvement. Provides an opportunity to network, showcase FCC work, recruit volunteers. Big dividends for FCC
      *Continued work to manage invasives. Need to determine long term goals, evaluate the sustainability around knotweed control efforts, general ecological considerations related to knotweed. Again, this project is important to our collaboration efforts
      *Wildlife corridors: This project has $8k of ARPA funds allocated, which must be expended by December 31, 2026.
      *Boyce Hill Town Forest: Connectivity prospects eg Boyce Hill and working with land owners, getting easements to secure permission to use trails
      *Chase Brook Town Forest: Management plan update (plan is out of date), much needed trail work, expanding educational programs and

accessibility for young users, working with a broad scope of stakeholders as we move forward with plan updates
*Phen Basin is another critical conservation area in Fayston.

Questions re: FCC Priorities

*What do program areas require? What is our bandwidth? Are we below/at/beyond capacity to address these priorities? Example: CB TF Management/maintenance - needs outstrip capacity
*What is the vision/mission of the FCC? Mission statement should include conservation and recreation
*Should FCC be a presence on the DRB?
*Recreation Commission - who, if anyone, represents Fayston?
*How do we create structure to be able to respond to opportunities (land acquisition) given a strategic plan/priorities framework document.
*Why do we exist? Revisiting/redefining our mission/vision/core values would help us to prioritize work
*How do we begin the process of writing mission/vision/core values statements? Begin w/google doc draft. Solicit feedback from the community? Patty will initiate the document. There will be a calendar to follow.

5. **Project updates**
    a. Conservation and Recreation Visioning - Brian
    Working on the desired conditions with balanced conservation/rec perspective docs.
    b. Wildlife Corridors - Brian & Andrea
    ID'ing corridors gathering data with cams, etc.
    Map to illustrate potential wildlife corridors - not enough data available to confirm corridors. Only ID places where more info could be gleaned. Arrowood might help with ID'ing potential corridors.
    Schedule Jens for the August meeting.
    History/documents related to failed True North effort to acquire/develop facilities off of Murphy road might have useful data to support this effort
    c. Green Valley Rally / Green Up Day - Patty & Andrea
    Nothing to report

d. MRV Bear Initiative – Andrea
   Meeting yesterday (6/25). Tabling June 15 for knotweed and bears initiative. Tote will be raffled. Tabling July 27 & Aug 3. Toolkits are being distributed and more have been ordered for purposes of education. New rep on initiative from waitsfield. Request for $500 approved
e. Invasives/Knotweed – Andrea
   Mt. Ellen and Barton Road work today. Notable decrease in knotweed compared to last year. Some work done at Chase Brook. Wildflower seed around utility poles is growing. Work completed at rt. 17 and German Flats. Difference between plants not managed and managed is notable. QAPP for grant (required) has been submitted - comments are back. Donations are minimal.
   As project coordinator will be leaving role mid July, one of the UVM interns has been identified to assume this role for day to day coordination. David Moroney will assume the GIS portion of the role.
   Rebar and marking caps have been purchased and are being installed to identify the measurement sites, as described in the QAPP.
   Andrea will be gone the next three Wednesdays so help needed with interns/volunteers. There is a decline in volunteers this year. Rotary and VMN network might be places to enlist volunteer help.
f. Boyce Hill – Pete & Woody
   Meetings have been held with potential committee members. Corrie Miller has concerns about management/mowing
g. Chase Brook – Amy & Patty
   MRR work in CB - approval for this work? FCC will likely need to solicit bids from forestry consultants in order to execute the management plan update. More discussion needed on this topic.
h. Other?
   Ok to send the newsletter.

6. Woody motions to adjourn. Patty seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 7pm
7. Next Meeting: **July 24, 2024 at 5:45pm**