Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024

5:45 - 7:00 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Call to Order** by Brian at 5:50pm

2. **In attendance:** Andrea Henderson, Brian Litmans, Patty Pasley, Woody Dugan, Amy Dalton

3. **Approve minutes** from Sept. 25, 2024: Andrea motions to approve, Woody seconds, all voted in favor.

4. **Public input** - none

5. **FCC Administration**
    a. Newsletter: Draft has been emailed to members for edits due by Monday. Newsletter will be sent by 11/5. All agree on a seasonal newsletters cycle.

6. **Tri-Town Conservation Commission:** Meeting scheduled for 11/7 and hosted by George Schenk. A draft agenda was created based on a discussion of meeting goals; accomplishments/challenges; time allocations for each conservation commission to report out, Curt Lindburg with highlights from 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), priority alignment; Brian will present 3-5 questions to direct the conversation.
   Co-chairs will fine tune the draft agenda and disseminate to members for editing. Agenda will be emailed to all CC attendees on Monday. Is it appropriate to invite Moretown and Duxbury? Andrea will consult with Jito and Curt on this. Should the public be invited? If so, meeting must be warned a week in advance. Brian will facilitate this event.

7. **Chase Brook Management Plan Subcomm Report**: Subcommittee Amy, Pete, and Patty met on Oct. 2. Next steps for CB plan include writing a vision statement; reaching out to named stakeholders in current plan to solicit feedback; developing a community survey to seek additional input; requesting a bid for consulting work from Michael Brown/Birdseye

Consulting. We hope to reach these goals before January 2025.

8. **Project updates**
    a. **MRV Bear Initiative**: Andrea - Much time this summer was dedicated to tabling at markets. Toolkits are being enhanced with door hangers to provide more concise information as the current toolkits are multiple pages and may not be read. Jaclyn Comeau with VT Fish and Wildlife presented at the Warren Library. The Bear story contest will be scheduled for summer 2025, later than previous years, in an effort to garner more entries.

    b. **Boyce Hill:** Woody - 14 volunteers showed up for the community stewardship weekend 10/19-20. Work included the clearing of trees from the dam. Mowing/brush-hogging is slated for 10/28. Ideal timeframe for maintenance work is late August/early Sept. to avoid unwanted regrowth. Map and signage is in production for the kiosk and installation will soon follow.

    c. **Invasives/Knotweed:** Andrea - The knotweed management season has concluded. Volunteer turnout was low. Next year, more advance notice might increase volunteer numbers. A reminder that reporting volunteer hours is critical to the grant match.

9. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning:** Brian - CRV held a Community Forum to discuss the process, what desired conditions can/should look like for the valley and held a multi-table discussion on a variety of topics from vision for the Valley to mapping to what a code of conduct could look like. Attendance was low but those that came out were engaged. The next, and last, community forum is Nov. 20 at the Valley Players. The CRV is committed to continue their work but needs someone to serve as the hub for this group.

    a. **Wildlife Corridors:** Brian and Andrea - There is Valley interest among CRV stakeholders to pursue work on this issue. Laura A would like to work with all CC's to advance this work. There is Vermont Outdoor Recreation Community Grant (VOREC) money for this work but it must be expended by the end of this year.

b. **Chase Brook Maintenance:** Patty/Andrea - Powder post beetle treatment was completed in May. Post May Impacts were minimal and limited to two beams in one corner of the barn. Recommended treatment for the coming year - two treatments for $200/ea. Mid June - mid-July 2025. We need to budget for this. Also recommended is applying a sealant.

c. **Other**
    i. Biodiversity Alliance Annual Meeting Update - Brian attended this 3rd annual conference that included broad representation from 28+ organizations and state agencies with the goal to bring the latest in biodiversity conservation science to the members. This was also a networking opportunity to advance 30 by '30 goals. The only CCs in attendance were from the MRV.

10. **Items for next month's agenda:** A subcommittee will be formed to draft the 2025 budget and present at the next FCC meeting.

11. **Other business:** None

Next Meeting: **Nov. 21, 2024 at 5:45pm**