Summer 2024 Update

Your Fayston Conservation Commission (FCC) has been working steadily to manage and maintain our town's natural resources since 2008. This newsletter is the first of a seasonal communication we plan to deliver to keep you informed of our current progress and upcoming initiatives.

The Commission has six members, one open seat, and one open alternate seat. Current commissioners include Brian Litmans (co-chair), Andrea Henderson (co-chair), Amy Dalton, Patty Pasley, Woody Dugan, and Peter Colgan. Corrie Miller retired from the team this past spring after serving for six years on the FCC; we thank her deeply for her conservation leadership and caring of Fayston's natural spaces.

The projects we are actively engaged in on your behalf include the following:

Boyce Hill Town Forest management and maintenance: Work underway includes mowing of trails, a trailhead sign, a pet waste bag dispenser, and establishing a Friends of Boyce Hill Committee.

Chase Brook Town Forest management and maintenance: If you haven't visited the Chase Brook trails recently, check out the informational signs at the trailhead about knotweed management. You'll also notice two tarps that have been put down for the winter. These sites will become pollinator gardens in the spring.

The Town Forest Management Plan for this site is overdue for its required update. We have solicited a bid for a local consultant to help us update the plan. We are also soliciting targeted input from stakeholders Catamount Trail Association, Mad River Riders, Mad River Path, and Fayston Elementary School.

By the end of the year, we also hope to survey Fayston community members regarding use and management of this town forest.

Invasives/Japanese Knotweed control: The FCC has partnered closely with the Waitsfield and Warren Conservation Commissions on tri-town efforts to educate our communities about If

you'd like to help weed out invasives with a tax-deductible contribution, visit www.friendsofthemadriver.org and specify "INVASIVES" in the memo/notes when making your donation. *Our trails, streams, rivers, meadows, and forests thank you in advance!*

Conservation & Recreation Visioning: The CRV process is a community-wide effort to create a vision for balancing ecological integrity with recreation and trails across the Valley. The FCC has a representative on the CRV Committee that is currently drafting a "desired conditions" statement as outlined in this article in *The Valley Reporter* on June 6. You can learn more about the CRV process here.

MRV Bear Initiative: Bears are currently in the

An FCC representative also sits on the MRV Bear Initiative committee, which develops resources for educating residents and visitors on how to safely co-exists with our black bear population. These resources, including a free short-term rental resource Toolkit about keeping bears wild, are available here on the Chamber of Commerce's Mad River Valley website.

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Our team operates with the philosophy that small acts of community add up to large ones, and we invite all interested neighbors to join us. If you'd like to be a Fayston Conservation Commissioner or volunteer to support our activities, please contact us at faystonconservation@madriver.com.

You can learn more about the Commission on our Fayston Town webpage.