Fayston Conservation Commission Agenda

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

1. Meeting called to order at 5pm
2. In attendance: Woody, Pete, Andrea, Brian, Amy
3. Minutes from Jan. 22, 2025: Pete motioned to approve. Brian seconded. All in favor and minutes approved.
4. **FCC Administration**
    a. **Budget Update**
        i. Report from meeting with SB on 1/28/25 - town forest reserve fund utility. SB would like categories (account codes/#s) - Set internal July deadline for determining line items. No timeline applied to spending down TR funds.
        ii. Report re budget #s in Town Report and at Town Meeting Day
            1. Budget at p. 19
            2. Capital budget (including anticipated budget needs for the Conservation Fund and Town Forest Reserve) on p.25
        iii. CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND remaining funds (p.26 of TR) 2023 - $ 61,936.16 // 2024 - $ 65,436.16
        iv. TOWN FOREST RESERVE remaining funds (p.26 of TR) 2023 - $ 31,520.74 // 2024- $ 38,522.96
    b. **Newsletter** - Mid May publication to include Chase Brook Update, Invasives, volunteer recruitment, Boyce events, Tri-town CC work, and Bear Initiative
    c. **Commissioner Terms and Recruitment Updates** - Members will be reaching out to prospective candidates and reporting back at the April meeting.
5. **Project Updates**
    a. Chase Brook Management Plan Subcomm Report - Birdseye Contract has been signed by all parties and filed with the ToF. The public survey is complete and will be disseminated next week. Pete and Amy will follow up with stakeholders by attending a meeting in the next two months. Amy and Pete will work with Michael to iron out a timeline for work on the update this Spring-Fall.

b. **Chase Brook Maintenance** - Amy met with Patty Pasley and will serve as point person for reporting on work at CB. Two treatments for powder post are scheduled this summer. Andrea will pick up and place the new picnic table. Ky will assess the barn beams for possible treatment/preservation measures.
c. **Boyce Hill** – Tree pruning event was a huge success. County forester was among the participants. The search is on for someone to build steps.
d. **Invasives/Knotweed** – In addition to the project coordinator intern, 6 invasive species technician interns accepted offers. Dave Moroney will serve as a consultant. LCBP contract was amended to allocate funds from gravel decontamination to goats grazing. Summer schedule considerations are focusing on volunteerism (Best day? Time?) in order to increase participation. Syncing the schedule to include interns is beneficial.
e. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - A Recreation Trail Development Guide (to help organizations interested in establishing new trails) along with the Arrowwood map, the CRV Shared Vision (collaborative recommendations by 15 stakeholders), Values and Guiding Principles for Ongoing Collaboration, and a Current and Desired Conditions Statement have been completed and approved by the CRV. Moving forward, the goal is to have quarterly meetings with updates (4-two hour meetings throughout the year - first meeting to be held in June)
f. **MRV Bear Initiative** – MRVBI collaboration with Valley libraries for National Poetry Month haiku challenge was launched on March 24, 2025 and runs through April 30th. Haiku will be displayed at libraries and businesses in the Valley. MRVBI will be tabling at the Green Valley Rally. Bear educator/advocate, Sarah Crockett, will hold a workshop, Coexisting with Bears: Being Responsible Neighbors for the public on April 10. More informational materials have been ordered for distribution to residents/second home owners and for distribution at the Waitsfield Farmers Market.
g. **Wildlife Corridors** - Aaron Worthley with Arrowwood Environmental has put together an informal scope of work. Recommendations are as follows: 1. Review and update Forest Blocks developed for the Mad River Valley CRV project with changes focusing on existing land-use review and applicability for Fayston's conservation and planning priorities. 2. Build land cover-based wildlife permeability

matrix, and model likely high-value wildlife corridors between the Forest Blocks developed in Step 1. 3. Provide GIS data, online map visualization tool, and brief overview summary documentation at project completion. Total cost- $7500, to be completed during calendar year 2025.

h. **Other**
    i. Third Green Valley Rally will again be held on Green Up Day, hosted by the MRV Chamber of Commerce at the MRV Welcome Center on May 3, 2025 from 8am-2pm.

6. **Other Business** - Ira Shadis is soliciting Valley conservation commissions' support for a grant proposal for a native plant nursery. FCC members are fully supportive.
7. **Items for Next Month's Agenda**
8. Pete made a motion to adjourn. Woody seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Next Meeting: **April 23, 2025 at 5:45pm**