Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, May 28, 2025

5:45 - 7:00 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:47 pm** Amy Dalton, Brian Litmans, Andrea Henderson, Pete Colgan and Woody Dugan present + Kim Phelan, FCC prospective member

2. **Minutes from April 23, 2005** Pete motioned to approve the minutes , Andrea seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes approved.

3. **FCC Administration**
    a. **AVCC grant for Boyce Hill Town Forest documentary project**: Check received and given to Sarah for deposit. Once Boyce Hill Hill Farm History film is completed, a report will be submitted to satisfy grant terms.
    b. Summer Newsletter
        i. Brian will create a template and email to members by 5/30. Newsletter to be distributed by June 6.
        ii. Content Highlights to Include:
            1. Green Up Day/ Green Valley Rally
            2. Chase Brook Town Forest update - community survey, Birdseye forest survey, management plan progress
            3. Invasives update
            4. Summer activities/events - date for community gathering at Chase Brook. programming at McCullough Barn and link to information/forms for barn rental
            5. CRV update
            6. MRV Bear Initiative update

    c. **Commissioner recruitment update**: Andrea motioned to recommend Kim Phelan's appointment to the FCC to the selectboard. Woody seconded. All voted in favor. Motion approved. FCC co-chairs will appear before the selectboard with Kim on June 10th in order to present her nomination for final approval.

d. **Tri-town CC and Friends of the Mad River collaborations update**: Wildlife corridor report will provide a solid platform for collaborative work among the conservation commissions. Additionally, issues relating to riparian/river corridor health is also a valuable point of discussion. To this end, Woody will send an invitation to Ira with Friends of Mad River to attend an FCC meeting to identify more specific areas of focus. All members agreed that a more inclusive meeting to reflect more broad based conservation efforts would be beneficial.

e. Project updates

f. **Chase Brook Management Plan Subcommittee Report**

   i. Survey has generated 85 responses. These returns surpassed expectations so all agreed to close the survey, aggregate results and send to Michael Brown.

   ii. Michael is working on the forest plan draft. The first draft is anticipated to be available for FCC review by mid-June. Once reviewed and FCC has added content as appropriate, the draft will be sent to the selectboard for approval. Once approved, the plan will be available to the community for review at a Chase Brook Town Forest gathering/potluck/walk in the forest with Michael Brown.

g. **Chase Brook Maintenance**

   i. Spray for powder post beetle was completed mid-May. Some knotweed management was also completed thanks to Patty Pasley. Tarps are still intact and slated to be removed in August. One of the Serviceberry trees suffered some minor damage due to deer browsing. Signs for trees will be made by Andrea (wood to be donated by Woody) to acknowledge Corrie Miller and Lisa Koitzsch.

h. **Wildlife Corridors** - Aaron with Arrowood will begin over the summer.

i. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - Members discussed the completion of Phase 1 along with plans and priorities for CRV 2.0. Partner organizations have coalesced behind this effort. Consensus has proven to be a strength. VOREC grant obligations are now complete and CRV partners are exploring future funding opportunities. A request for funds from Valley FCCs is anticipated. Sam Robinson with MRVPD will assume a leadership role. Trail design

guide is published and available. A toolkit will be created to support landowners, trail organizations, etc. in planning for and building trails using best practices.

j. **MRV Bear Initiative** – Andy Phelan has been very proactive with FPF posts. Two BearSaver recepticles will be ordered and installed where needed most, in collaboration with partner organizations. Sarah Crockett speaker event this Spring proved to be very successful. Vermont State game warden is a potential speaker for Fall 2025. The question was raised regarding whether MRVBI should submit reports to VF&W when people find garbage strewn about by bears. Andrea will raise this question at the next BI meeting although this group has no enforcement authority. The best action is for the resident of the affected property to submit a report with VF&W asap.

k. **Boyce Hil**l – A letter of appreciation was sent from Alicia Daniel to thank Pete and Woody for their part in producing the historical video Two projects with anticipated expenses include: Stone step project - tentative completion date is Aug. 9 in conjunction with Northern Canoe Trail + volunteers. Woody is looking into using found rock for the project. If not found rock, estimates on precut rock will be sought. Kenyon's has the material needed for the bog bridges by pond. Brad Long has joined as a new BH steward. A plan for Canary grass removal is in the works. Janet Saylor- on the Boyce Hill committee, is taking a lead on this. The letter from Jane Barnett concerning trespassing needs to be addressed.

l. **Invasives/Knotweed** – A table with information was set up at the Green Valley Rally. UVM advisors joined with FCC members on May 18th to weigh in on site selection. Interns will start work the first week of June. Two community work days are scheduled each month with varied times to encourage more participation. A conservation mix was purchased from Kenyon's to spread at disturbed sites. Andrea has been adding posts to the MadRiverKnotweed Instagram page. Goats have been deployed for the second year.. FMR accepting tax deductible contributions and a GoFundMe was launched by Warren Conservation. Informational tabling will take place at Waitsfield market throughout the summer.

4. **Other Business** - Andrea would like to purchase a 5'x3' banner with FCC logo at a cost of $51 for use at tabling and other events

5. Items for next month's agenda - Nothing specific identified.

Brian motions to adjourn. Pete 2nd. done.

Next Meeting: **June 25, 2025 at 5:45pm**