Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, August 27, 2025
5:45 - 7:00 pm
Fayston Municipal Office

1. Meeting called to order at 5:46 pm
In attendance: Brian Litmans, Andrea Henderson, Kim Phelan, Peter Colgan

2. Minutes from July 23, 2025 approved - Motion made by Kim. Seconded by Andrea. All voted in favor.

3. FCC Administration (5 min)

- **Budget for 2026** - looking to spend down reserves over time
- **Invoice for Michael Brown** - passed on to Madi and Sarah for payment
- **AVCC grant report** - we have completed our obligations on this, considering a public screening of the film on Boyce Hill. We will follow up to ensure that reporting has been fully shared.
- **Community Volunteer Fair - Sunday, September 21 - 12-3pm at the Round Barn.** Close to 100 non-profit entities. Andrea suggested a tri-town Con Com table. Goal to have volunteer projects ready to go that day - ie, Boyce Hill volunteer day on Sep 28. Using a new app called Bee that connects organizations with volunteers. Idea to have a shared volunteer list between towns. Draft tri-town Conservation Commission banner is designed and will be ready for the fair.
- https://madrivervalley.com/event/we-are-mrv-a-celebration-of-community/2025-09-19/

4. Planning Commission LUR update - no update

5. Project updates

- **Invasives/Knotweed** – Management/planting volunteer opportunities have been posted to Bee app, continuing to work with UVM and interns, video update on interns' experiences. MRVKnotweed Internship. Seeing less knotweed. Trees planted are thriving - new willows look good, native saplings from last fall doing well. Pete posted idea for study about Boyce Hill as a natural lab for succession in plants. Make sure we are all on the AVCC list serve for upcoming projects.
- **Chase Brook Mgmt Plan** - Ky Koitzsch is working on the draft. Need to incorporate in Google doc. Management and Forestry pieces are close to being complete.
- **Chase Brook Maintenance** - no updates
- **Wildlife Corridors** - Hoping to present info on this effort via zoom at Oct mtg.
- **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - Next quarterly meeting in September. Selectboard updated on the CRV process. We are likely to receive a request to contribute funds - $500/year toward the initiative. Efforts for CRV 2.0 - "Road Show", LUR toolkit for landowners, campaign "Attitude of Gratitude" for trails focusing on

community, engagement, and culture. “Attitude of Gratitude” Video coming. Reminder about the “Almost There” video on the Chamber of Commerce website.

- **MRV Bear Initiative** – Two BearSaver receptacles have been purchased and installed at Lareau Swim Hole and Bridge Street, with stickers and magnets added to them. Sugarbush and Stowe have them too. Possibly will partner with schools. More posting on FPF is effective with links to BearWise and MRVBears.org. No date yet for fall presentation.
- **Boyce Hill** - Great weekend day for work - bridge and bog bridges installed. Pond is down 2 feet. Need some mechanized support to address erosion on the bottom step. Current mower is becoming non-functional and is not repairable. It is time to look into a dedicated weed whacker and brush hogger for the two sites.

6. Other business

- **Ideas for Fall guided hikes** - Phen Basin, Boyce Hill, and Chase Brook Town Forests. Potential guides - Ky Koitzsch (CB), Lisa Koitzsch and Corrie Miller (PB team). Janet Saylor (BH). We could also show the video.

7. **Next Meeting: September 24, 2025 at 5:45pm**

- Dates for fall guided hikes
- Updates on Community Day

8. Kim made a motion to adjourn and Brian seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:48.