Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

5:45 - 7:00 pm

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **In Attendance** - Brian Litmans, Amy Dalton, Kim Phelan, Andrea Henderson, and Peter Colgan. Woody Dugan absent.
2. **Meeting called to order at 5:46 pm**
3. **Approved minutes** from Jan. 28, 2026 - unanimously before Andrea's arrival
4. **Discussion of Fayston Town Plan with Langford Davidson, Chair of the Fayston Planning Commission (FPC).** FPC has 5 members with a short tenure. The Town Plan and Land Use regs need updating, so each member was assigned chapters. The Town Plan is rewritten every 8 years - due in 2028. In the past, the Town Plan had minor tweaks until COVID. Much has changed since then. FPC is almost done with a community survey and wants to get it out before town meeting. There are 1300 people in town and they are hoping for a large response.
    a. **Goals and Objectives at the end of each chapter** of the Town Plan.
    b. **FPC uses the Town Plan as a directive for action. FPC working on substantive changes in the 2028 Town Plan** as many issues identified in past plans have come true - e.g. flooding. The 2020 Town Plan was sent to theCentral Vermont Regional Planning Commission for consultation about items needed in next revision.
    c. **Town Plan gives the FPC teeth to develop zoning regs**. Some perennial issues are logging, road ditches, driveways, setbacks, etc.
    d. **What can FCC do to help?** Read chapter 3 thoroughly and focus on goals and objectives.
        i. **FCC will share maps from Arrowood** on the work done for us on forest blocks and wildlife corridors with FPC. A goal for the Town Plan is to include language on forest blocks and connectivity. Some groups are creating conservation overlay districts.
        ii. **FCC will share info on past FCC surveys.** Chase Brook - 90 responses, Boyce Hill - 241 responses.
        iii. **Are there potential FCC recommendations for more zoning guidance?** A goal might be to get people on large tracts to put some land into conservation. Another might be to draft non-burdensome guidelines for landowners in key areas

connected to wildlife corridors and forest blocks.

5. **Project updates**
    a. **Invasives/Knotweed** – *Invasive Species Management and Ecosystem Restoration in the Mad River Valley* Final Report submitted by Waitsfield CC Feb 17th. Town of Waitsfield, Conservation Commission *Advancing Holistic Invasive Species Management and Habitat Restoration* Lake Champlain Basin Program application awarded Jan 2026. Waitsfield is the grant holder, and Fayston CC is a partner organization. Tri-town invasives team meeting scheduled with Friends of the Mad River on March 19th re: advancing conservation through collaboration among the three conservation commissions and FMR. Invasives Mgmt Technician interviews conducted at UVM Feb 24th. MRV invasives management and restoration work highlighted at Feb 19th, Watershed Forestry Partnership's Annual Meeting
    b. **Boyce Hill** – Idea to use goats for management of areas that can't be mowed - estimate is 1000$/acre/day for goats. Given limited funds, could this be a pilot/test project?
    c. **Chase Brook Mgmt Plan** - chipping away, Ky's portion is done. Much bigger undertaking. We will reach out to Michael Brown later to finalize.
    d. **Chase Brook Maintenance** - no maintenance; some plowing done. Pollinator planting in spring
    e. **Wildlife Corridors** - nothing to report
    f. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - next meeting in March, last meeting cancelled.
    g. **MRV Bear Initiative** – a Bear cub from the Kilham Bear Center will be named in honor of Margo Wade. We will host a Bear Workshop in conjunction with Green Valley Rally at MRV Rec Hub on May 2. There will be stations for electric fencing for chickens and bees, gardening with native plants to attract birds, bird feeders, trash, etc., to educate people about perennial bear issues. We will collaborate again with libraries on Poetry Month. We currently have 2 BearSaver receptacles installed at Lareau Swim Hole and Bridge Street stewardMRV sites; looking for a location for one more - maybe at Rec Hub. HUUSD intern, Casey Klus will be working with MRVBI. MRV Rec District is the new fiscal host of MRVBI.

6. **Other business -**
    a. March 4 Green Valley Rally planning meeting scheduled at Welcome Center.
    b. Spring newsletter - Need content written by April 1 to send out Fri Apr 3.
7. **Next Meeting: March 25, 2026 at 5:45pm**
8. **Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm**