**Fayston Conservation Commission Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

**5:45 - 7:00 pm**

**Fayston Municipal Office**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm
   Present: Patty, Pete, Brian, Andrea and Amy
2. Pete made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 24, 2024, All those present in favor. Patty second. Minutes approved.
3. No public present and no public input submitted.
4. **FCC Administration**
   a. **Tri-CC Meeting:**
   Nov. 7th at Lareau. 5:30-8:30. We will need to warn it and draft an agenda by next FCC meeting on 6/26. Input will be requested fromWarren and Waitsfield.
   **b. Invasives Fundraising Campaign:**
   Some funds have been raised (approx 1k) and dedicated to Fayston. 25k has been pledged as a match. Those making a donation to Friends of Mad River, need to specify Invasives. We intend to table at the Waitsfield Farmers Market. Patty will work on a fundraising communications plan/message update.
5. **Project updates**
   a. **Chase Brook Mgmt Plan Update:** FCC members met with Mead Binhammer from VLT for a walk at CB. We discussed the management plan and potential options for moving forward. Mead and Alicia Daniels (with Vt Master Naturalists) agreed that the existing plan is a solid plan and that this is a good opportunity to work with stakeholders on an amendment and get more town engagement with it. Amy has communicated with Michael Brown of Birds Eye Consulting (did the Mooretown plan which sounds like it was more involved). He may be available if we want to pull in a private consultant. Robert Nelson (county forester) not available this summer. Amy will check in with Patti Lewis to see what we need to do to get bids for contract work. Pete noted that Amy Sheldon did the Boyce mgmt plan and was great to work with.
   Chase Brook maintenance and ongoing mgmt update: Knotweed was pulled; picnic tables are out; weed whacking done. Misha will remove the broken branch hanging over the trail by 5/25. Ross is no longer mowing. Ed Read may be able to take over mowing. Do we need a

mower? The mowed area is slated to be a pollinator garden.
*Note: Patty Pasley commented that this is the most knotweed she's seen around trail head.*
Q: Should we promote that the barn can be rented?
Questions raised about guidance for priority/preference to environmental education/nonprofit/stewardship. Where do funds go? (to the Town Reserve). What are the requirements for renting? Patty to share those with FCC.
Overall, the more people using it the better.
Chase Brook powder post beetle work is done.

b. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning:** EIWG is finalizing the current conditions statement and working on the desired conditions. FCC has provided the EIWG with its draft desired conditions for input. CRV will be holding a community forum on May 29th from 6-8pm at the pavilion at Lareau Farm. Potluck from 5 to 6.
c. **Wildlife Corridors:** Jens had an update about biofinder not being up to date but that it has been fixed. Andrea to share with FCC members.
d. **Green Valley Rally / Green Up Day:** Event was very successful. There was twice as much participation compared to last year. Anecdotally, people reported less trash this year. There were 92 GMVS student volunteers.
e. **MRV Bear Initiative:** There was an informational table at GVR. We will also be tabling at the bear paint by numbers next Friday. We will also be tabling at the Waitsfield Saturday Market. Our next meeting is 5/28. Press/postings related to bears in the Valley have been well reported in the paper and on FPF. Andrea will check in with the Battleground about their measures to deter bears.
**f. Invasives/Knotweed:**

First Fayston Community Knotweed Work Session was held Wednesday, May 1st along Mill Brook just above German Flats culvert to clear last year's growth in order to make this season's management of the new site easier - 2 volunteers joined.
FCCs worked at Chase Brook and Mill Brook/German Flats sites week of May 13.
The town of Waitsfield contract with LCBP was executed on May 17th.
Next Fayston Community Knotweed Work Session planned for Tuesday, May 28th, 4-6pm across from Mad River Lodge (formerly The Garrison) - We will contact Mad River Lodge owners to request permission to park at their property.
Brian and Andrea will attend the Selectboard meeting on May 28th at 6:15 re

tri-town fundraising efforts.
Curt Lindberg, Waitsfield CC, Jito Coleman, Warren CC, hosted UVM interns, project coordinator, Mariano Rodriguez-Cabal and Noelia Barrios-Garcia, UVM Rubenstein School advisors on May 4th to visit management sites, and debrief over lunch at Lawsons on May 4th.
Interns will start June 3rd.
Brian Colleran will work with interns in Warren on June 4th.
The Fayston Community Knotweed Work Session with the UVM interns will be held on June 5th, 4-6pm.
We are working to finalize the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). We are selecting additional sites to be managed. A meeting is scheduled for next week to finalize the targeted sites.
An email was sent to Miranda Dalton, Waitsfield Farmers Market manager, re dates for tabling.

g. **Boyce Hill:**

An on-site meeting with potential Boyce Hill Committee members has been proposed for June 12 or 13. We are awaiting responses.
Minor trail mowing with string mower and weed whacking around cellar hole is planned for early June.
Woody will speak with Mike Q about beginning monthly mowing of Boyce Hill and pond trails.
Single-sided sign still in design.
Poop bag dispenser (not waste collection container) being sourced.
We have confirmed ongoing StewardMRV support.
Woody is designing a bridge at the north end of pond.
Major mowing is planned for mid-August.
View-related tree removal will take place in October. The plan is not yet established.
We are evaluating methods to re-secure no swimming sign.
We are evaluating possible clearing this summer below cellar hole by barn foundation.

h. **Other**

6. **Corrie Miller thank you**

We'd like to gather for a potluck at the barn. Patty will coordinate with others to secure a date/time. We will plant a tree in honor of Corrie as well.

7. **Grant guidance**

Brian will connect with CCs to see if they have any guidance.

8. **Items for next month's agenda:**
    a. Identify priorities for FCC. Do they match our current projects? Are there other projects we'd like to consider?
    b. Recruiting new members.
9. **Other business.**
    a. We'd like to publish an FCC quarterly newsletter with a goal for a summer newsletter on FCC projects, upcoming events, etc.
    b. FCC instagram account possibility?
10. **Motion to adjourn by Patty. Pete second. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:00pm**
11. **Next Meeting: June 26, 2024 at 5:45pm**