Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:46** In attendance, Brian Litmans, Andrea Henderson, Woody Dugan, Peter Colgan and Kim Phelan.
2. **Guest attendees -** Jessica Knoop from Fayston Forest Camp
3. **May minutes approved** unanimously
4. **FCC Administration** - none
5. **Project updates**:
    a. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - Attitude of Gratitude campaign launch at Big Pic was on 6/11 with a solid showing of people. Frannie from CRV sub-group is assessing the state of the 50+ trailhead kiosks in the Valley. MRVRD has some funds for sign improvements. Likely to put much of those funds towards a sign at the Rec Hub. FCC is responsible for kiosk TH at Boyce and Chase Brook. Will look into taking off the sleeve for inserts. MRR and MRP are merging.
    b. **MRV Bear Initiative** - Tabled with Knotweed Sat. Next 2 Farmer's Markets and Morefest, submitting articles to Valley Reporter (reprints from Bearwise) and will put in FPF and on Instagram. A bear had to be put down in Stowe - we want to avoid this in the Valley. Fall event - perhaps with Ben Kilham in Sep-Oct. Fayston submitted our portion of funds.
    c. **Invasives/Knotweed** – People very focused on key areas like Lareau, Bridge Street, Farley Park and restoration vs actual knotweed management. Few volunteers in Fayston (none at first 2 events). Harwood students who had UVM advisors teach class and joined in fieldwork on invasives have volunteered at Knot Thursday volunteer work at Lareau Swim Hole. Native trees planted along Mill Brook are doing very well. The Forest Stewardship book talk had substantive info on invasives and will be available online. UVM intern Sarah Ewell spoke with kids at Fayston Forest Camp on Knotweed, and kids did a small amount of management on June 24. Upcoming Knotweek work with UVM interns are:
        i. July 8 - 8am-2pm, incl midday Knot Work Party 12-2pm
        ii. July 22 - 8am-2pm, incl midday Knot Work Party 12-2pm
        iii. Aug 5 - 12-6pm, including Knot Work Party 4-6pm

iv. Aug 19 - potentially 12-6pm, Knot Work Party 4-6pm
v. Remaining Waitsfield Farmers Markets tabling dates are July 11 and Aug 1
vi. Details of remaining 2026 Knot Work Parties are:
    1. July 8 - midday Knot Work Party 12-2pm along the Chase Brook at the intersection of Mt. Ellen and Barton Roads
    2. July 22 - midday Knot Work Party 12-2 along the Mill Brook at the intersection of Route 17 and German Flats Road
    3. Aug 5 - Knot Work Party 4-6pm along the Mill Brook across from Mad River Lodge, 2354 Mill Brook Road

d. Boyce Hill – Workday scheduled Jul 11 and will put on Bee. Mowed on Jun 23. Big mow by Mike Q needs to be scheduled in July on the pond loop, and main Boyce Hill trail. Some people were disappointed that they missed a wild bee ID clinic but it could have been better publicized. We need to take advantage of Bee App.

e. Chase Brook Mgmt Plan - Brian and Ky met on 6/10. We have identified all the remaining aspects to complete a first draft. We continue to plug away with a goal of completing the draft by the end of July. Punchlist with items to complete. Ky doing ecological sections, Brian doing remainder with input from other folks.

f. Chase Brook Maintenance - Pollinator garden weeding, seeding, and planting completed with some donated plants as well. Accidentally put down hay rather than straw as mulch - it was removed. Other plants doing well. McCullough Barn Central VT Pest treatments done on Jun 10. Next one will be Aug 5th. Selectboard discussed and approved our updated policy for rental use on Jun 9. Our focus was on ensuring all natural areas are protected by following leave no trace principles. Jessica Knoop from the Fayston Forest Camp talked with us. Kids will play upstream from the bridge accessed by the stairs and not on the steep bank. Recognized painting rocks last year was an issue and asked about adding to library's fairy house forest project. Bottom line - what can be done for fun with kids that does not impact on the leave no trace goal.

g. Wildlife Corridors - MRV Rec District has some funds which they might use to encourage other towns to do similar wildlife corridor mapping with Arrowwood. Warren likes the map idea, haven't heard from Waitsfield. Mapping gives us info to use with the Planning Board.

6. **Other business**
    a. **Round Up revival starting on Jul 2 on Thursdays on the green.** Want non-profit orgs at each event for fundraising and outreach. Idea to do a raffle or raise money other ways or just be informational. Andrea/Kim can do 9th for Knotweed. Lawson's will sell totes and share profits with groups at the RoundUp.
    b. **On Aug 27, 3-5 Friends of the Mad River will host an Irene Recovery anniversary event.**
7. **Items for next month's agenda**
    a. **Town Plan input -** FCC task to read through Town Plan before July meeting
8. **Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.**
9. **Next Meeting: July 22, 2026 at 5:45pm**