Fayston Conservation Commission Minuets
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:49 pm.** In attendance - Brian LItmans, Andrea Henderson, Woody Dugan, Peter Colgan, Kim Phelan and Sparky Potter, potential new FCC member.
2. **July minutes unanimously approved.**
3. **FCC Administration**
    a. Sparky Potter - strong lifelong interest in conservation. FCC voted unanimously to forward recommendation to the Selectboard to have him join the FCC. Next Selectboard meeting is 9/8.
    b. 2027 budget planning - really no updates other than request for payment for barn beetle treatment. Annual budget is for invasive species, Bear initiative/CRV contributions, small initiatives.
4. **Project updates**
    a. **Conservation and Recreation Visioning** - Franni Hoag (with MRVPD) has assessed all kiosk signs in the MRV. MRP has the vast majority of signs, we manage 2 signs (CBTF and BH). CRV continues with quarterly meetings. Other questions coming on how to manage contributions etc. Want some expression of "Attitude of Gratitude" on trail system.
    b. **MRV Bear Initiative** – FCC agreed to put up one page Bears + Dogs = Trouble signs at Chase Brook and Boyce Hill properties. Fall/winter event planning continues with Kilham Bear Center and VTF&W potential presenters. Andy Phelan volunteered to connect with Lisa Loomis with the Valley Reporter to coordinate MRVBI articles. Learned of Aug 21 Boston Globe article regarding bear incidents in Stowe and near Sugarbush. Our mrvbears.org website updates are in progress. Upcoming tabling events - Morefest 9/19, WFM 9/26, MRG Green & Gold 10/3, Sugarbush Community Day 10/11. ? on incidents - impression is there are more with an expanding bear population.
    c. **Invasives/Knotweed** –
        i. End of season intern and volunteer Flatbread dinner hosted by George Schenk was on Thursday, 8/26. Great group of 6 interns.
        ii. Two 2026 interns have expressed interest in returning as the project coordinator for the 2027 field season

iii. The MRV Knotweed project met with Duncan Murdoch, Intervale Natural Areas Stewardship Coordinator and two team members on Aug 11 regarding Knotweed management and volunteer engagement. MRV team invited to tour knotweed project areas at Intervale. Goal is to build collaboration and best practices.

iv. Andrea and Michelle Krieg, FMR Restoration Nursery Coordinator, toured Fayston Knotweed management sites on Aug 13 and discussed potential fall plantings. FMR has a grant that will fund Fayston riparian native species planting, and Luke Foley will help coordinate student volunteers - timing late Oct/early Nov. This will be at the same 2 sites. Excellent progress at Mad River Lodge, more than 50% success along the brook. Goal is to continue working downstream over time.

d. **Boyce Hill** –

i. Mike Quenneville mowed the trails - great work.

ii. Pete spoke with Sparky Potter regarding historical interpretive signage. Sparky will be working with the Historical Society on refining verbiage, possibly incorporating graphics, and designing signs. Showed us photos of old Boyce images. Boyce was used as a woodlot and mortgaged repeatedly. Name to look for in town records was James Somerville who lived on the property - adopted daughter was Wrisley and gave property to her upon death. Area was called the Wrisley pasture in the mid 20th century. Likely a small family living on the hill.

iii. The “No Poop Fairy” sign was stolen from the Boyce Hill gate, and we’ve learned that this was part of a valley-wide spate of similar vandalism at other sites.

iv. About 20 temporary signs on order for trailheads from MRPath as replacements.

e. **Chase Brook Mgmt Plan** - Vermont Land Trust requirement to have forest management plans - which address current use and the stands and what FCC intentions are for the property. Priorities are conservation and recreation. Brian and Ky continue to meet. We have a document that is very close to completion. We plan to have a draft ready for FCC review on Oct. 15 with ~2 weeks for review. We would like to make the plans available for public review Nov. 1 with a public comment period running through Dec. 15. Final draft to be completed in Jan. 2027.

f. **Chase Brook Maintenance** -

i. Second 2026 Central Vermont Pest treatment for Powder Post Beetle completed Aug 20th (invoice for $200 submitted to Fayston Treasurer.)
ii. Pollinator gardens are looking good! We weeded twice this summer. Wild, messy, and full of pollinating insects!
iii. Amy Dalton volunteered to take a lead on signs for Chase Brook bugs and birds. She may recruit artistic support for this (i.e. Harwood students, etc.) Budget, parameters, TBD - potential reach out in a fall newsletter?? Idea for 2 signs - pollinator gardens and benefits.
iv. Zero errant poop piles on Aug 25 hike, one small painted rock that we may have missed in the spring cleaning project - Poop Fairy sign is still there:)
v. Hasp latch to be installed and slide to be removed on Chase Brook sign. Woody will fix.

g. **Wildlife Corridors** - Ongoing conversation about funds that the MRV Rec dist has and what to do with it. Originally, funds were going to go to mapping (like our recent map) for Warren and Waitsfield. Warren has expressed that they don't think they need that kind of mapping given what they have currently. Waitsfield CC hasn't expressed an opinion yet. Franni trying to get the commissions together to discuss.

5. **Other business**
   a. **Town Plan FCC Updates** - Several aspects to cover; historical updates from Peter to send to Madi with info from documents from Brad Long. Predecessor to the FCC may have had a road inventory with some info on cellar holes. Freddie wanted info from us on cellars. It would make sense to crowdsource info on this. Idea - send info to Freddie about your own property and cellar holes you are aware of. She needs info by next PC meeting in Sep. Our area is chapter 3. Ky or Brian will present changes to PC in Oct. Ky is under contract on this. FCC moved to make funds available for up to $2500 - approved unanimously (can use $ from TF Reserve). This is a one time detailed update using Ky's expertise in this area.
   b. UVM outreach re Culvert Crawlers project - Woody could be a contact only with the UVM professor. Looking at animal crossings, ditch and culvert health etc.
6. **Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.**
7. **Next Meeting: Sept. 23, 2026 at 5:45pm**