Fayston Conservation Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Fayston Municipal Office

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:47 pm**
2. **In attendance** - Brian Litmans, Woody Dugan, Andrea Henderson and Kim Phelan.
3. **August minutes approved unanimously.**
4. **FCC Administration**
    a. Selectboard approved Sparky Potter's appt to FCC.
    b. 2027 draft budget review - CC financials & budgeting files
        i. Budget will be similar to last year with the following changes:
            1. Estimated expenditures from Town Forest Reserve Fund for signage at Chase Brook and Boyce Hill, and Boyce step stabilization and plantings to prevent erosion at the pond.
            2. Suggested donations of $250 for each MRVBI and Attitude of Gratitude; $300 for Bee the Change
            3. Suggestion to create a pollinator garden at Town Offices and potentially create pollinator garden kits for the community
            4. Donations have gone into the Town Forest Reserve Fund from Big Basin Forest ($2K) and Winooski Soil and Water Commission. ($50)
        ii. Town Forest Reserve Funds - used for mower replacement, goat grazing, and mowing,
5. **Project updates**
    a. Conservation and Recreation Visioning -
        i. CRV met in Sept. and discussed the new footpath, future plans for Scrag Mountain Town Forest, Dog Management (MRVPD Whitepaper), Kiosks, and Conservation Commissions/Mapping.
        ii. The next quarterly meeting will be in November.
        iii. Asked kiosk subgroup about expectations for stakeholder contributions for signage.
    b. MRV Bear Initiative –
        i. Kim Phelan will take over as FCC rep from Andrea Henderson
        ii. mrvbears.org website updates in progress. Good feedback on FPF posts, PSAs in Town emails, FCC newsletter
        iii. Morefest tabling was excellent! **Upcoming tabling events -** WFM 9/26, MRG Green & Gold 10/3, Sugarbush Community Day 10/11
        iv. Working on ideas for winter event
    c. Invasives/Knotweed –
        i. KnotweedFest - Held Sept 12th, over 60 people attended a "pull and swim social" at Lareau swim hole and cleared knotweed from the swim hole to Rt 100 bridge.

ii. Ongoing assessment of knotweed management using goat grazing and manual methods
iii. FMR shared plan for grant-funded Fayston riparian native species restoration planting, and offered to help coordinate additional volunteers. CC volunteers will meet Saturday morning 10/31 to plant.
iv. Invoice received from Town of Waitsfield for Fayston share of 2026 UVM intern and related expenses for net amount due after consideration of LCBP grant funds of $3,500.79.
v. Suggestion to use Joe Pye Weed to compete with knotweed along riversides - check with FMR on effectiveness and try a pilot site on Mill Brook riparian restoration site

d. Boyce Hill –

i. Need to focus on undermining/erosion at bottom of pond stairs - we need to improve and maintain pond access
ii. Sugarbush will employ tractor and flail mower this time rather than Snowcat for annual autumn mowing.
iii. Work ideas for fall service-day(s) - focus on pond with stair reinforcement, sapling removal from dam and potential planting around staircase.

e. **Chase Brook Mgmt Plan -** no updates

f. Chase Brook Maintenance -

i. stewardMRV is doing a stellar job!
ii. Pollinator garden is in full bloom

g. Wildlife Corridors -

i. CCs and MRVPD are meeting to discuss collaborative efforts. $15-20K is available for wildlife corridor work.
ii. Need field verification work on corridors and can potentially use.trail cams to see wildlife movement in key areas

6. Other business

a. Town Plan - nothing to report yet.
b. The Land Trust for the Mad River Valley meeting debrief - Thoughtful discussion and solicitation of issues - what do we want to protect?
c. AVCC Annual Meeting debrief and survey - 64 CC members. Tiny grant project presentations; Jen Hilke shared a Biofinder presentation and noted that VT Fish & Wildlife has trail cams for loan.
d. Culvert Crawlers - no update.
e. FCC voted to cancel the November CC meeting (currently 11/25) - as there are budget and Tri-Town CC meetings this month.
f. Tri-town meeting for November 12 or 19 at Lareau - Warren hosting this year.
g. Planning for CC newsletter in November
h. Reminder - Annual Report for the town due in early Jan.
i. Discussion on creating Welcome folders for new town residents to include watershed, storm smart, bear initiative, invasives - formerly came from FMR.

Done in MA through realtors. We could do as FCC and highlight in newsletter and offer folders for pickup at Town Hall.

7. **Meeting adjourned at 7:04**
8. Next Meeting: **Oct. 28, 2026 at 5:45 pm**