

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
SELECTBOARD MEETING
Monday, November 28^h, 2022
6:30 P.M.

Please see note below for access

I. Call to Order: 6:30 P.M.

II. Regular Business.

1. Agenda additions, removals, or adjustments per 1 V.S.A. § 312 (d) (3) (A).
2. Public forum. (5 +/- min.)
3. Update from the Planning Commission on the Town Plan amendment process (10 +/- min.)
4. Mad River Valley Recreation District annual recap and FY24 Budget Request (15 +/- min.)
5. Waitsfield Conservation Commission 2022 Knotweed Report and FY24 Budget Request (20 +/- min.)
6. Review first draft of Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department FY24 proposed operating budget and MOU with Town of Fayston (20 +/- min.)
7. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Consider Approving the Minutes of 11/14/22
 - b. Bills Payable and Treasurer's Warrants
 - c. Approve MRV Planning District request for Municipal Planning Grant Resolution for short term rental inventory funding
8. Selectboard roundtable. (10 +/- min.)
9. Town Administrator's updates. (5 +/- min.)
10. Executive Session – Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (2) [Real Estate] and 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3) [Personnel]

III. Other Business.

1. Correspondence/reports received.

IV. Adjourn.

***PLEASE NOTE: Public access will be via Zoom. To watch and participate, please use the following link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82056117089>

Meeting ID: 820 5611 7089

By phone: 1 (929) 205-6099

Anyone wishing to speak can do so during the designated times, as indicated by the chair.

Questions and comments can be sent to townadmin@gmavt.net during the meeting.

ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

Waitsfield Town Administrator's Report

November 28, 2022

***PLEASE NOTE: Public Access to this meeting will be remote-only, via Zoom. To watch and participate, please use the following link:**

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II. REGULAR BUSINESS.

Item II.3. Update from the Planning Commission on the Town Plan amendment process

The Planning Commission has been working on updates to the Waitsfield Town Plan for the past three years. The updates started as necessary updates to the energy chapter of the plan, then included updates as required by Act 171 to protect forest blocks, and in the past year also include updates to the housing chapter to better align with the goals of the bylaw modernization grant and other efforts to address housing in Waitsfield through policy updates. The updated draft [can be found here](#) and the state's required reporting form outlining the proposed amendments. The Planning Commission will pursue a re-adoption and not just an amendment which will push out the timeline for the next required update. The PC hopes to hold their first hearing on the proposed draft on January 17th, 2023. Additional hearings with the Selectboard will also be required. This is an opportunity for the Board to review what is proposed and ask any questions before the hearing process begins. JB Weir, Planning & Zoning Administrator, and Alice Peal, Planning Commission Chair, will be present to answer any questions.

Recommendation:

No action needed at this time. The Selectboard should review the draft and let the Planning Commission know if they have any questions or concerns about the proposed amendments.

Item II.4 Mad River Valley Recreation District annual recap and FY24 Budget Request

Laura Arneson, Executive Director of the Mad River Valley Recreation District, will present an update on the work of the Recreation District over the past year and will include their 2023 (calendar year) budget request which will be considered by the Board as part of the FY24 budget draft. An update memo and budget document are both enclosed.

Recommendation:

No action needed at this time. The Board will consider the budget request as part of the overall FY24 budget process.

Item II.5 Waitsfield Conservation Commission 2022 Knotweed Report and FY24 Budget Request

Curt Lindberg will present the 2022 Knotweed Report as well as the Waitsfield Conservation Commission's FY24 budget request update, both of which are enclosed.

Recommendation:

No action needed at this time. The Board will consider any budget request as part of the overall FY24 budget process.

Item II.6 Review first draft of Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department FY24 proposed operating budget and MOU with Town of Fayston

Annie, Christine, and Jared Cadwell met with Tripp Johnson, Craig Snell, and Paul Hartshorn to review the initial FY24 draft Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department Operating Budget. The proposed budget is enclosed for the Selectboard's review. Additionally, an updated MOU between Waitsfield and Fayston has been drafted and reviewed by all and is also enclosed for the Selectboard's review. A joint meeting is planned for the December 5, 2022 Selectboard meeting but this first meeting is an opportunity for the Waitsfield Selectboard to review the drafts.

Recommendation:

Identify any questions that the Board has about the proposed operating budget and MOU which can be addressed at the joint December 5th meeting.

Item II.9. Consent Agenda

Any member of the Selectboard may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for any reason and the Chair will decide where on the regular agenda the item will be placed for further discussion and potential action, otherwise a single motion is all that's needed to approve the identified consent agenda items.

- a. Consider Approving the Minutes of 11/14/22
The minutes are enclosed for Selectboard review.

- b. Bills Payable and Treasurer's Warrants
Warrants will be emailed before the meeting and available for review in person at the meeting.

- c. Approve MRV Planning District request for Municipal Planning Grant Resolution and authorize town agents to sign
The MRV Planning District is pursuing grant funding through ACCD's Municipal Planning Grant program to complete a short-term rental inventory in the Mad River Valley. The Planning District has identified this as an important first step in addressing short term rentals in the valley, something that the community has identified as a need for some time. The application will be a consortium grant application which would include Waitsfield, Fayston, and Warren, with the Town of Warren serving as the lead on the application. The group is requesting \$20,000 for the initial inventory which they believe is enough based on recent quotes received. The Planning District plans to cover the required

10% match. The deadline is December 1st and all three towns are required to sign and submit the enclosed resolution in order to apply.

Item II.11. Town Administrator's Updates

The Town Administrator will share any additional updates at the meeting.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Item III.1. Correspondence/Documents/Reports received

- a. Adjoining Landowner Notice from McCain Consulting (Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing with the Fayston Development Review Board for a steep slope development project at 357 Old Quarry Road, Fayston, VT).

Planning Commission Reporting Form for Municipal Plan Amendments

Town of Waitsfield, Vermont

November 16, 2022

This report is in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4384(c) which states: “*When considering an amendment to a plan, the planning commission shall prepare a written report on the proposal. The report shall address the extent to which the plan, as amended, is consistent with the goals established in §4302 of this title.*”

A public hearing by the Planning Commission on the proposed changes to the 2017 Waitsfield Town Plan will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday January 17, 2023 in the upstairs meeting room at the Waitsfield Town Office, 4418 Main Street, Waitsfield, VT.

The Planning Commission has prepared draft changes to the Town Plan for the Town of Waitsfield as required for re-adoption in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4387. The proposed 2022 Town Plan revisions are intended to address the statutory criteria for re-adoption, including consideration of:

- Recommendations of the regional planning commission;
- Input from the community;
- Consistency with the State Planning Goals in 24 V.S.A. §4302;
- Address all of the required plan elements as specified in 24 V.S.A. §4382;
- Internal consistency among the different plan elements;
- Compatibility with the Regional Plan and municipal plans from adjoining towns;
- Establishing a program and schedule for implementing the plan.

In consideration of the above criteria, the 2022 proposed changes include a few minor edits as well as the following substantive changes:

Chapter 4: **Housing**

This chapter has been updated with the most current data about housing in the Town of Waitsfield. Corrections were made as well as deletions of incorrect data. Tables and graphs were updated and data sources cited. Updates were also made to Goals, Policies and Tasks. Minor revisions made to assure consistency with Act 171 and Act 174.

Chapter 9: **Energy**

Much of the prior chapter has been deleted and the chapter is now intended to serve as the Town of Waitsfield’s Enhanced Energy Plan. This energy plan reflects efforts by the Planning Commission to incorporate the goals of Act 174, and the State Commitment to be 90% renewable by 2050. Included with this section is a draft map indicating potential siting of sustainable energy projects that conform to other goals of the plan. The energy chapter clarifies which types of energy projects are desired and in what parts of Waitsfield they may be suitable. These changes are being made in order to further State Planning Goals and the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan.

Chapter 11: Natural Resources

This chapter was updated to address Act 171. The chapter includes new mapping of Critical Forest Tiers and habitat crossings. It also includes the Designated Village Center boundary and changes in preferred development illustrations.

Chapter 12: Land Use

This chapter was updated with a new Future Land Use map. The Future Land Use Map was updated to be consistent with the goal of maintaining rural character with a designated village center, and to address the new forest block goals in the plan. The new map includes forest blocks, habitat connectors, water service area, and conserved lands and reflects roads, rivers, perennial streams, and ponds. Five new designated areas were agreed upon for the Future Land Use map: Industrial, Forest/Conservation, Moderate Density, Rural, and Village.

In addition, the map appendix in the 2017 Plan was removed and the maps were inserted into the body of the Plan.

General Notes:

- (1) We do not anticipate significant probable impacts on the surrounding area (e.g., traffic, overall pattern of land use) as a result of these proposed changes.*
- (2) We do not anticipate significant probable impact on the municipal tax base nor the need for public facilities.*
- (3) There is no substantive change proposed in this plan with respect to vacant land.*
- (4) The changes proposed are relatively minor, but help to better address the suitability of the areas for the proposed purpose. For example, this plan strongly encourages the most intensive development to occur where existing infrastructure better supports it.*
- (5) The proposed changes are more appropriate in terms of modifying the Future Land Use Map to be consistent with recent changes and better reflecting existing conditions and future potential for development.*



MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT

Selectboard Update: November 2022

Overarching Themes:

- **We are nearing the end of our 3-5 year Strategic Plan. We are happy to report that we have made great strides in ALL of the key focus areas.**
- **Most notably, the MRVRD has significantly increased its capacity to support recreation in the Valley. Having an Executive Director has been instrumental in increasing our capacity!**
- **Additionally, the Rec. District's responsibility for administering the VOREC grant is an important measure of our increased capacity.**
- **As we look forward, a primary goal of the MRVRD is to work with our recreation partners to ensure a balance between recreation and stewardship of the environment.**

2022 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with six partners to apply to the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) for a MRV Recreation Hub. MRVRD received the largest grant statewide in this cycle, \$408,019. While the announcement was made in March 2022, due to staffing at the state, signing will take place in late 2022. Bi-weekly, often weekly meetings with partners has become a priority.
- Completed fundraising for the irrigation project at Mad River Park (\$44,100).
- Managed Mad River Park: gear swap, new lost and found box, opened MRP for winter, planned for and raised funds for a needed irrigation system to be completed in 2023.
- MRVRD launched a new website in early 2022 to keep residents and visitors aware of our many programs and opportunities. We now have a dedicated page on the Rec Hub.
- Awarded \$39,500 in recreation grant funds to 11 groups, plus a contribution to support the Community Recreation Visioning initiative. The grants serve youth and adult programs and sustain vital recreation facilities used by the community and visitors. Funding requests from 14 applicants came in totaling more than \$73,000.
- Continued participation in stewardMRV, an initiative to increase the cleanliness and environmental quality of recreation sites. Our hope is to expand stewardMRV to thank landowners and launch programs regarding dogs on leash and disposal of waste.
- Continued leadership of the MRV Trails Collaborative with an emphasis on balancing trails and environmental priorities and keeping partners abreast of Rec Hub developments. MRVRD's website has a drop-down page for the Recreation Hub.
- Hosted an E-bike lending library during August where approximately 40 people were able to try E-bikes. This partnership with LocalMotion may lead to other opportunities.
- Made the \$15 bike helmet event at the Farmer's Market annual (85 distributed).
- Worked with the Planning District and a volunteer Dog Park committee to get permission and permits from the Town of Warren for a dog park (rated as an unmet need in surveys by the Planning District and The Path). Fundraising for this effort is underway.
- Planned a community event at MRP, "Funathon", (canceled due to thunderstorms), but it will be part of our 2023 activities.

- Navigated transition in Board of Directors. Thanked departing Board member Geordie Hall (Warren) and welcomed Derek Bennett (Waitsfield) to the Board. Liza Walker stepped down in August from the MRVRD due to a move and was replaced as Board Chair by Alice Rodgers, formerly Vice Chair. Bear Simmons (Waitsfield) volunteered to be Vice Chair.

2023 Initiatives

The MRVRD will help lead the Community Recreation Visioning (CRV) project, a sub-component of the VOREC grant that will establish a path forward for balancing trails and environmental sustainability. CRV goes through December 2024 and has two main goals:

1. Engage the community in a visioning process to ensure that future initiatives reflect the Valley's dual interests in diverse, high quality outdoor recreation experiences and a thriving and intact natural environment.
2. Create a gold standard vision that is articulated both in writing and spatially in a map - for balancing environmental health and recreation in the MRV, safeguarding valuable natural resources, and planning for long-term stewardship opportunities.

In addition to leading CRV, the MRVRD will also:

- Manage and administer the 408K VOREC Grant. Outside accounting help will be hired. This grant will be a main focus of our 2023 and 2024 work.
- Fundraising for the well and irrigation system at MRP is complete, next steps: purchase and install the above ground irrigation system and determine staffing in order to protect the fields.
- Operate MRVRD annual recreation grant program, continue to streamline procedures to make it easy and inclusive for local organizations to apply. Decisions moved to December.
- Work with the Trails Collaborative to address concerns of the towns, conservation commissions and planning groups regarding Valley-wide planning for trails and balancing environmental issues.
- Host \$15 Bike Helmet opportunity as an annual event.
- Consider working with LocalMotion on additional E-bike programs.
- Work with the Skatium Steering Committee to research and implement plans for improvement.
- Continue plowing the parking lot at Mad River Park to enable winter use.
- Re-launch the community event that was canceled in September 2022 to bring people together to celebrate recreation in the Valley.
- Increase responses to the MRVRD survey and use those results and the results of the Mad River Path and Planning District's surveys to chart MRVRD future activities.
- Continue to improve the MRVRD website to serve the community and provide updates on the MRV Rec Hub and other important projects.

Many thanks to the towns of Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren for the additional funding voted in during 2022. With the increased workload of the VOREC Grant, additional accounting and reporting tasks to the State, irrigation at MRP and increased grantee activity, MRVRD will prudently use the increase to achieve concrete results.

With a total annual budget of \$122,250 (Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren at \$40,000 each and Moretown at \$2,250 to support Mad River Park), we are closer to the benchmark of Waterbury and Bristol's recreation budgets at over \$300,000 each.

MAD RIVER VALLEY RECREATION DISTRICT 2023 BUDGET		MAD RIVER PARK 2023 BUDGET	
INCOME		INCOME	
Warren	\$40,000	Spring Soccer	\$700
Fayston	\$40,000	Spring LAX	\$900
Waitsfield	\$40,000	Summer Camps	\$800
Moretown (for MR Park)	\$2,250	Fall Soccer	\$700
Total Income	\$122,250	MRVRD (includes Moretown)	\$9,000
Carry Over from 2022	\$3,250	Total Income	\$12,100
Total Available for 2023	\$125,500	Carry Over from 2022	\$1,200
EXPENSES		Total Available for 2023	\$13,300
Recreation Grants and Facilities	\$45,000		
Mad River Park	\$9,000	EXPENSES	
VOREC Project Management	\$15,000	Port-o-lets	\$2,200
Executive Director Salary	\$38,000	Insurance	\$1,350
Soc. Sec/Medicare 7.65%	\$2,907	Plowing	\$1,500
Workers Compensation	\$800	Mowing	\$3,900
Technology Stipend	\$960	Field Maintenance	\$2,000
Travel Reimbursement	\$600	Irrigation Labor Costs	\$2,000
Payroll Service/Gusto (\$25/mo) - \$51	\$612	Stormwater inspection	\$200
Unemployment Insurance 1%	\$380	Signage/Security	\$100
Professional Development	\$500	Maintenance Equipment	\$300
Membership VRPA	\$100	Miscellaneous	\$150
Membersip VLCT (Associate Level)	\$1,000	Total Expenditures	\$13,700
Website	\$500		
Miscellaneous	\$87		
Reserve	\$10,000		
Total Expenditures	\$125,446		



Knot in Waitsfield

Report to the Community on Japanese Knotweed Management

November 2022

By Bob Cook and Curt Lindberg on Behalf of Waitsfield Conservation Commission



Highlights

2022 witnessed the first year of Waitsfield's efforts to manage Japanese Knotweed in town and stem its spread along upper elevation roads and waterways. We began the year with three objectives:

1. Stop spread of knotweed along upper elevation roadways and waterways and eradicate young infestations
2. Educate and engage community in knotweed eradication and demonstrate that progress is possible
3. Learn from year 1 experience to inform plans for subsequent years

And these understandings:

- Knotweed is damaging the natural environment in Waitsfield and the Mad River Valley
- Knotweed is spreading rapidly in Waitsfield and infesting new areas along town roadways and waterways, especially at upper elevations
- Eradication and control of knotweed is possible as evidenced by results from Warren
- We can benefit greatly by partnering with Warren
- Investment now in knotweed management will prevent the need for much larger expenditures in the future

Year one results exceeded expectations. We managed 66 individual Knotweed infestations, more sites than originally intended. As a result of intensive management (cutting, digging, mowing, smothering) we witnessed noteworthy weakening of 83% (55 sites) of these infestations.

This effort, led by Waitsfield Conservation Commission and the Selectboard, was strongly supported by the community. Voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of an Invasive Species Reserve Fund of \$10,000 and many area residents volunteered to help with Knotweed management and eradication work. *The Valley Reporter* featured the initiative in multiple stories.

Starting Plans

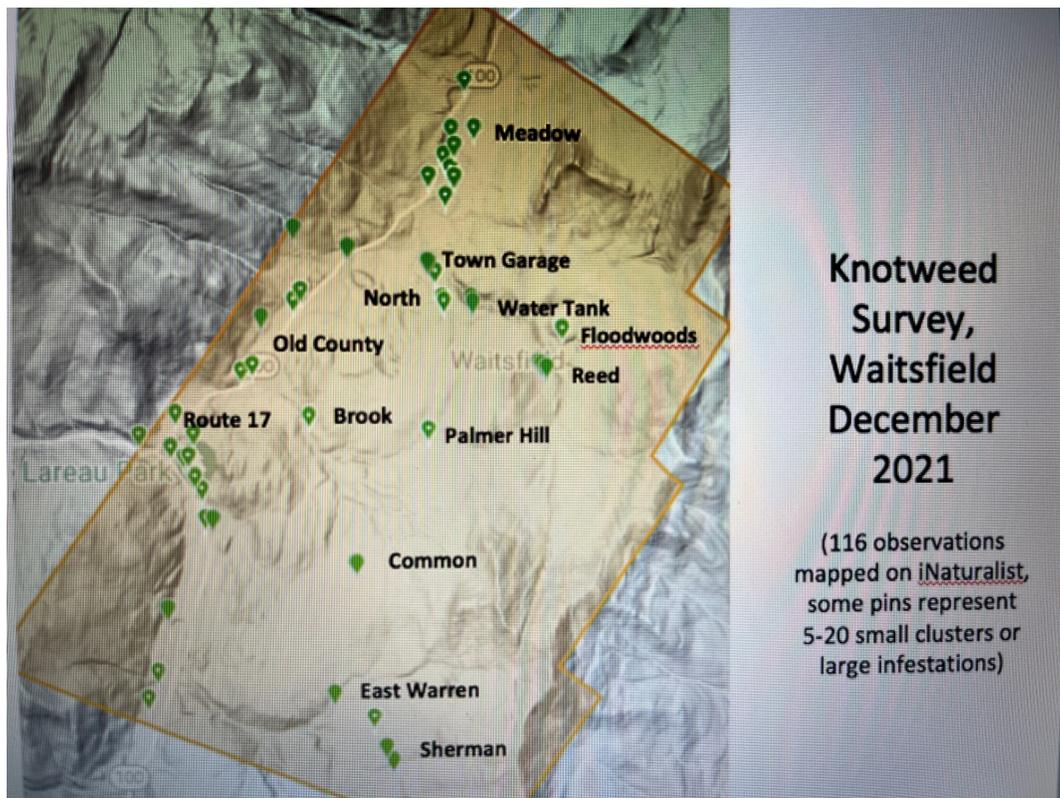
Conservation Commission and Selectboard members created a plan to guide the 2022 effort. The plan called for:

- Identification of high priorities for Knotweed eradication and management on town owned properties and high visibility non-town owned properties
- Identification and implementation of best management practices for Japanese Knotweed control

- Communications and education - around general and site specific Knotweed management plans, recruitment, education and engagement of volunteers and landowners, and securing press coverage in *The Valley Reporter*
- Creating a system to measure impact and effort to inform plans for subsequent years
- Establishment of a task force of interested members of the Conservation Commission and Selectboard to plan and oversee initiative.

Sites Mapped & Managed

Using iNaturalist, members of the Conservation Commission created an iNaturalist Project for Japanese Knotweed in Waitsfield (available [here](#)) and mapped 169 sites where Knotweed was found. Mapping concentrated on areas other than the river corridor sites. You'll note from this map that Knotweed exists in many locations. We know of instances where Knotweed exists on private property, but these locations were not for the most part mapped.



From this map information members of the Conservation Commission identified 66 priority sites for management. Locations selected for prioritization were along upper roadways and waterways and in highly visible, iconic sites in town. The former locations were selected with the objective of halting spread. The latter locations were selected because of the opportunities they presented to build community awareness and to improve the beauty of these special places.

- Bridge Street
- Brook Road
- East Warren Road

- Floodwoods Road
- Lareau Swim Hole
- North Road
- Old County Road
- Palmer Hill Road
- Reed Road
- Route 100
- Sherman Road
- Ski Valley Road
- Tardy Property
- Tremblay Road
- West Greenway

Outcomes

In September members of the Conservation Commission surveyed all the sites that were subject to management efforts in 2022 and graded the level of impact - from no impact on the infestation, to moderate weakening, to significant weakening, to eradication.

- 2% (1 site) of sites showed little impact
- 15% (10 sites) of sites showed moderate weakening
- 83% (55 sites) sites showed significant weakening
- 0% of sites was Knotweed eradicated

As such, It is accurate to conclude that the spread of Knotweed on most of these managed sites has been arrested. It is hoped that continued attention in subsequent years to some of the smaller sites along upper elevation roadways and waterways will result in eradication. This has been the experience in Warren.

Public Awareness & Community Engagement

A significant investment was made in building community awareness about Knotweed, its negative impact on nature in the Valley, and about how Knotweed can be managed.



- Community education sessions were offered over Zoom and at the Lareau Swim Hole
- Photos and releases were supplied on a frequent basis to *The Valley Reporter*, and the paper was very generous in its coverage of Knotweed efforts
- Postings were made on Front Porch Forum
- UVM interns created a MadRiverKnotweed Instagram account and made 18 posts over the summer
- Conservation Commission members conducted a workshop for the Mysa School
- Conservation Commission members met with several private landowners on how they could deal with Knotweed on their properties
- Educational signage about Knotweed and the various management methods being employed were posted at highly frequented locations in town - Bridge Street, Lareau Swim Hole and West Greenway

These efforts paid off. Many Valley residents volunteered to assist in managing Knotweed in town. Voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of the Invasive Species Reserve Fund.

People Power

Twenty-four community volunteers and five interns from University of Vermont spent over 1022 hours on the “Knot in Waitsfield” project in 2022, with most of this time being in late spring and summer. Of these hours, 604 were by volunteers; 418 by interns.



The interns were paid a modest hourly rate from the Invasive Species Reserve Fund. One intern served as coordinator of intern activities.

A significant portion of the Knotweed management work took place during weekly 4-6 pm “Knot Thursdays” sessions where volunteers and interns would concentrate efforts at a designated location. In addition, ten locations (comprising nearby multiple infestations) were adopted by individual volunteers who assumed responsibility for managing Knotweed throughout the growing season (May through September). This initiative was called “Adopt Some Knot” and included these locations:

- Brook Road
- East Warren Road
- Floodwoods Road
- North Road
- Palmer Hill Road
- Reed Road
- Sherman Road
- Ski Valley Road
- Tremblay Road
- West Greenway

The town road crew made contributions to Knotweed control, especially on Center Fayston Road, where a very extensive infestation was cleared in conjunction with road grading and ditching repairs.

Two ecologists with expertise in Knotweed control and revegetation of Knotweed sites provided the Conservation Commission and UVM interns with valuable information on how Knotweed spreads, management techniques and revegetation tips. They also affirmed the appropriateness of the basic strategies being employed.

Lessons Learned

The Conservation Commission hosted debriefing conversations with community volunteers and UVM interns on the first year experience with Knotweed management in Waitsfield. Here are some highlights:

- This community is concerned about the spread and prevalence of Japanese Knotweed and is willing to support management efforts
- The collaboration with Warren was an important contributor to progress in Waitsfield
- Having thoughtful starting plans that were open to improvement and good information on the location of Knotweed sites proved to be helpful guideposts for the initiative
- Offering multiple educational opportunities helped build interest, awareness of the problems created by invasive species, and recruit volunteers
- Working together on “Knot Thursdays” bred new friendships, built a community of Knotweed volunteers, and educated community members as they interacted with volunteers. The conversations among the volunteers and UVM interns also generated new ideas for the year’s plans, such as attention to revegetation
- Having options for participation - “Knot Thursdays” and “Adopt Some Knot” - was appealing as was a consistent schedule, each Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- Volunteers believe that the number of volunteers can be increased in subsequent years
- The labor intensive work of the initial cutting of Knotweed stalks and digging of root crowns and rhizomes early in the season paid off; it lessened the amount of time needed for subsequent management of the sites
- As the season went on we uncovered more efficient control strategies (i.e. reliance on mowing and weed whacking in certain locations, substituting for hand cutting/pulling)
- The consulting ecologists gave us confidence in approaches followed in town

Looking to the Future

- We need to locate a convenient location for long-term drying and composting of knotweed stalks, ideally on town land and a better method of transporting material. In 2022 we used a Warren Township property
- Given the progress made in 2022 and the reduced effort that will be required to maintain this progress next year we will, with a similar level of effort, be able to take on more

sites. Under consideration are: the path from Lareau to the Austin Parcel and along the Mill Brook on this property, expansion of the smothering area to the south of the beach at Lareau, addressing additional infestations at the town's Tardy Property. There is a desire by volunteers to tackle such an expansion.

- Given interest shown by local teachers and students in this first year's efforts, we should consider ways to engage more schools, teachers and students in future years
- While looking to expand efforts we must not take our eye off sustaining management efforts at the sites targeted in 2022
- Occasional equipment support from the town should be considered and well as additional collaboration/coordination with the road crew
- The possibility of developing management plans and priorities for other terrestrial plant invasive species in Waitsfield

Riley and Natty, UVM interns reaching for Knotweed on Sherman Road





Conservation Commission 2023-2024 Budget Proposal

Fund 14 - The primary purposes of this conservation fund are to support land acquisition and easements on property deemed important to the town and to leverage outside funding. Recently Fund 14 helped support the addition of the Gateway Parcel to Scrag Mountain Town Forest. Since the establishment of the Fund in 1996, \$243,700 from the Fund has attracted \$1,131,100 in outside support, almost a 1 to 5 ratio.

The Conservation Commission recommends the annual contribution to Fund 14 remain at \$20,000, the same level as in 2022-2023. This will help rebuild the Fund and better position Waitsfield respond to important acquisition opportunities and to leverage outside funds, which in recent years have increased significantly. The Great American Outdoors Act provides the largest increase ever in federal funding for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation. Each year \$900 million is available for such purposes.

General Conservation Budget - The purpose of the annual budget allocation is to cover routine operating expenses (such as ongoing forest restoration on the Austin Parcel, trail maps, trail maintenance, signs, and culverts) for town property managed by the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission recommends the annual General Conservation Budget be kept at \$5,000, the same level as the 2022-2023 contribution.

The Commission works diligently to carry out its work, with members providing countless hours of volunteer time to steward over 875 acres of town forest, maintain miles of trails and provide wonderful experiences for thousands of users.

Invasive Species Reserve Fund – This fund, newly established in 2022-2023 and overwhelmingly approved by the voters, allocated \$10,000 towards the management of Japanese Knotweed and Emerald Ash Borer. It is estimated that \$7,500 of this allocation will be spent during this fiscal year.

The Conservation Commission recommends that the identical level of funding provided in 2022-2023, \$10,000, be allocated to the Invasive Species Reserve Fund in 2023-2024, and that the Commission be authorized to draw on any unspent 2022-2023 funds in 2023-2024 if needed for Knotweed and other invasive species work.

Waitsfield Fayston Fire Department Draft GF Operating Budget FY24

Waitsfield SB Mtg: 11/28/22

	Item	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY24 Proposed	Change (FY23 to FY24)	Notes
1	Gas, Oil, and Grease (Trucks)	\$ 2,594	\$ 3,094	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 175	budgeting 5% increase for inflation
2	Insurance	\$ 11,388	\$ 10,084	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 450	Annie to look @ updated letter from PACIF, for now budgeting 5% increase
3	Telephone and Dispatch	\$ 30,007	\$ 21,642	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 10,000	Increase reflect Capital West reserve fund increased as presented to the Selectboard. The Town will need to see a contract w/ Cap. West before this is approved documenting where the money will go and how it will be used.
4	Radio and Radio Repairs	\$ -	\$ 2,632	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000	the cost of radios have gone from \$450 to \$800 in the past year, plus there are more volunteers who need radios
5	Electricity	\$ 2,483	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,575.00	\$ 75	budgeting 3% increase
6	Heat	\$ 4,068	\$ 6,060	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 300	budgeting 5% increase for inflation
7	Water Service	\$ 630	\$ 630	\$ 660	\$ 660.00	\$ -	
8	Building Repair and Supplies	\$ 3,716	\$ 6,042	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 300	budgeting 5% increase for inflation, this line now covers cleaning, exterminator, and the contract for the generator
9	Alarm	\$ 413	\$ 145	\$ 425	\$ 446.25	\$ 21	budgeting 5% increase for inflation
10	Truck Repairs	\$ 32,673	\$ 9,450	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	the WFFD is planning on a preventative maintenance review of all trucks to inform the capital plan and future truck repair planning
11	Repair of Equipment [RENAMED]	\$ 25,505	\$ 3,885	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,875.00	\$ 375	budgeting 5% increase for inflation
12	Bottled Gas	\$ 240	\$ 37	\$ 400	\$ 400.00	\$ -	no change needed - covers the water heater and cook stove
13	Training	\$ 519	\$ 4,522	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 450	big jump last year to better accommodate new volunteers, this year just keeping up with inflation
14	Hose and Equipment	\$ 8,696	\$ 5,142	\$ 6,180	\$ 6,489.00	\$ 309	budgeting 5% increase for inflation. FD could request ARPA funds for additional hose/equipment needs
15	Gear	\$ 10,788	\$ 8,259	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 500	budgeting 5% increase for inflation. The cost of gear has gone from \$2,600 for a set to \$4,000 for a new set of turnout gear and they are ~6 months out
16	Fire Prevention	\$ -	\$ 888	\$ 600	\$ 900.00	\$ 300	to provide additional fire prevention education in schools/the community, etc.
17	Miscellaneous	\$ 55	\$ 75	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ -	no change
18	Dues	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ -	no change
19	Physical Exams	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	no changes
20	Labor	\$ 28,723	\$ 25,681	\$ 24,230	\$ 27,460.70	\$ 3,231	increase the hourly pay of volunteer firefighters from \$15/hr (which was bumped up last year) to \$17/hr
21	FICA	\$ 2,197	\$ 1,965	\$ 1,854	\$ 1,909.62	\$ 56	Annie to look @ updated employee chart but estimating 3% increase
22	Ladder/Hose Testing	\$ 2,910	\$ 3,246	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 160	budgeting for 5% increase
23	Section TOTAL	\$ 167,604	\$ 115,297	\$ 147,549	\$ 169,251	\$ 21,702	
						18.82%	

	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	<u>FY24 Proposed</u>	<u>FY24 Proposed Total</u>	<u>Change (FY23 to FY24)</u>
*Fayston	\$59,020	\$49,700		
Fayston Dispatch		\$22,500	\$72,200	\$13,181
*Waitsfield	\$88,529	\$74,550		
Waitsfield Dispatch		\$22,500	\$97,050	\$8,521
	\$147,549	\$169,251		

**for FY24, less the telephone and dispatch line which will be split 50/50 vs. 60/40*

WAITSFIELD FAYSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT

This agreement, with an effective date of _____, 2022, is entered into between the Town of Waitsfield, County of Washington and State of Vermont, and the Town of Fayston, County of Washington and State of Vermont, acting by and through their respective Selectboards.

WHEREAS, the Town of Waitsfield and the Town of Fayston have an established agreement for shared fire services through the Waitsfield Fayston Volunteer Fire Department (WFFD), signed in June 1988; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Waitsfield and the Town of Fayston have identified areas of the 1988 agreement that are outdated and require updating; and

WHEREAS, the Selectboards of both towns intend to continue sharing fire protection services through the WFFD and to outline an updated process for budgeting and funding these services;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the agreements of each of the parties as set forth herein, it is agreed as follows:

1. The WFFD shall provide fire protection services to the Town of Waitsfield and Town of Fayston so long as this agreement remains in force and effect. Fire protection services shall specifically be defined as fire suppression, hazardous material control and fire prevention & education services.
2. The Town of Waitsfield shall pay 60% of the annual operating budget and capital budget for the WFFD and the Town of Fayston shall pay 40% of the annual operating budget and capital budget for the WFFD.
3. There shall be an annual meeting of the Selectboards of both towns prior to November 15th for the purpose of reviewing the proposed operating budget and capital improvement plan for the WFFD for the upcoming fiscal year. The final approved WFFD operating budget and capital improvement plan will be included in each towns proposed budget for voter approval in March.
4. The Town of Waitsfield shall pay the initial total of all invoices for operating costs as approved in the operating budget and authorized by the Fire Chief. The Town of Fayston shall pay their 40% share of the operating expenses to the Town of Waitsfield at the end of each calendar year upon receiving an invoice from the Town of Waitsfield.
5. For capital improvements, the Selectboards for both towns shall authorize the expenditure of reserve funds before any purchases are made. Capital improvements shall follow the plan outlined in the capital improvement plan, although there may be emergency instances where reserve funds are needed that were not included in the CIP. Once both towns have approved the expenditure, the WFFD may make the requested purchase. The Town of Waitsfield shall pay the initial invoice and immediately invoice the Town of Fayston for their 40% share. The Town of Waitsfield shall maintain a log of capital expenditures made throughout the fiscal year.
6. Title to all land, buildings, and equipment of the WFFD shall be in the name of the Town of Waitsfield. Funds realized from the sale of jointly purchased items deemed as surplus shall revert to the overall WFFD operating budget fund.

7. This agreement shall be renewable annually. Renewal shall be by affirmative vote of the respective Selectboards at a regular or special meeting on or before November 15th of the preceding contract year.
8. It is agreed that the respective Selectboards may from time to time jointly adopt such other procedures as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this agreement. All such adopted procedures shall be in writing and signed by the respective Selectboards indicating the date on which the Board acted to adopt the procedures. The procedures shall then be deemed a part of this agreement.
9. Any amendments or changes to the terms of this agreement must be in writing and must be jointly adopted by action of the respective Selectboards with a certification as to the date of the meeting when such action was taken.

Signature lines will be added to the final draft

- (For rural towns or consortia only)** The regional planning commission will serve as agent for the municipality or consortium. *(Check the box if the municipality authorizes its regional planning commission to prepare the application, support grant administration and be exempt from competitive selection if serving as project consultant.)*

LEGISLATIVE BODY

(name)

(signature)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESOLUTION FORM

- A. The Legislative Body of the Municipality must adopt this resolution or one that will have the same effect. This Form may be filled in or the adopted Resolution may be issued on municipal letterhead, filling in the name of the municipality, the Legislative Body (e.g. Selectboard), and the name and title of the Municipal/ Authorizing Official(s) (M/AOs); and the Grant Administrator.
- B. Following formal adoption, a majority of the legislative body must sign the Resolution. The Chair of the Planning Commission must also sign upon endorsement by vote of the Planning Commission.
- C. This form must be either uploaded to the online application or grant, or mailed to:

Municipal Planning Grant Program
 Department of Housing and Community Development
 One National Life Drive, Sixth Floor
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
- D. If mailed, an electronic copy of the submitted Resolution document will be uploaded by DHCD staff and available online.
- E. Please note that the designated Municipal/Authorizing Official(s) and Grant Administrator must also [register for an account](#) in the online grants management system, if they have not done so already, before the application can be considered complete.

CONSORTIUM APPLICATIONS: For a consortium, each municipality must complete a separate Resolution form. All municipalities in a consortium must designate the same Municipal/Authorizing Official(s) and grant Administrator.



CIVIL ENGINEERING
LAND SURVEYING
LAND USE PLANNING
PERMITTING

Date: November 16, 2022

To: Adjoining Landowners of John & Julia Gravois, 357 Old Quarry Rd

From: Gunner McCain., McCain Consulting, Inc.

Re: Fayston DRB Review
Conditional Use for Development on Steep Slopes
McCain Project No. 97038B

RECEIVED
NOV 17 2022
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

Dear Adjoining Landowner:

Please be advised that a public hearing to review a conditional use (Application 3782) has been scheduled to be held on December 6, 2022, at 6:00 pm, with the Development Review Board of Fayston, VT. Development Review Board approval is required pursuant to Article 3.4 (E) of the Fayston Land Use Regulations. More specifically, the Owners are seeking approval for conditional use for development on steep slopes.

This meeting will be held at the **Fayston Town Offices at 866 North Fayston Road** and also on-line via Zoom. **The Zoom Meeting ID is 858 1240 6795; Password: 909531.** Please contact Jason Wilson, the Fayston Planning & Zoning Administrator, if you have any questions about the project or access to the meeting at 802-496-2454 ext. 4.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF FAYSTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Agenda

Development Review Board

Tuesday December 6, 2022

Evening Hearing Schedule Begins at 6:00p.m.

Hearings will be held in-person at the Fayston Town Offices, 866 North Fayston Rd. & via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85812406795?pwd=c1g2WTZKZ0lraU5VOWxNNWtGSW9MZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 1240 6795

Passcode: 909531

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 305 224 1968 US

Applicant: John Gravois

Application Number: 3782

Type of Hearing: Requesting a Conditional Use Permit per to Section 3.4 (E) and Section 3.4 (C) (1) (d) of the Fayston Land Use Regulations for development on slopes in excess of 15% in grade.

Parcel ID: 07-028

Location of Property: 357 Old Quarry RD, Fayston