

WEBVTT

1

00:00:19.810 --> 00:00:28.056

Town of Fairlee: Okay, let's gonna introduce this guy over here, too. This is the the owl, and it will be

2

00:00:28.680 --> 00:00:39.129

Town of Fairlee: speaking, projecting you onto zoom land, and it will be reporting made. It will be posted on the account website, just to be aware.

3

00:00:39.480 --> 00:00:41.770

Town of Fairlee: hopefully, all of this is good to know.

4

00:00:43.110 --> 00:00:48.429

Town of Fairlee: Anyways, with that provocative title should fairly have

5

00:00:53.460 --> 00:00:56.871

Town of Fairlee: have one. It's possible to answer

6

00:00:57.710 --> 00:01:05.829

Town of Fairlee: And then to each of you, during the second half of the program is, answer the second question

7

00:01:06.040 --> 00:01:09.839

Town of Fairlee: to yourself, or innovating it and deliberating it.

8

00:01:10.080 --> 00:01:13.200

Town of Fairlee: and maybe perhaps, even if it if it's

9

00:01:13.600 --> 00:01:19.160

Town of Fairlee: if it's a select words, will to take it at a time, vote sometime in the future.

10

00:01:19.696 --> 00:01:28.119

Town of Fairlee: So this is really meant to be really open and open minded for time to get educated about what what we're all about.

11

00:01:28.800 --> 00:01:38.790

Town of Fairlee: Anyways, I should mention that this or this program was organized in consultation with the select Board upon a group of fairly residents

12

00:01:39.050 --> 00:01:49.310

Town of Fairlee: who wondered why our town plan, which was approved by boards in 2,020 States. The town should consider creating Conservation Commission.

13

00:01:50.290 --> 00:01:54.269

Town of Fairlee: but we haven't done anything about that yet. We're trying to get the ball rolling.

14

00:01:54.470 --> 00:02:02.810

Town of Fairlee: So we just formed this ad hoc airline Conservation Commission exploratory approval that includes myself.

15

00:02:03.260 --> 00:02:09.100

Town of Fairlee: And if I'll stand up, you can recognize who's behind this Laura Jonathan.

16

00:02:10.150 --> 00:02:20.750

Town of Fairlee: And then, Suzanne, this is it going, Arlene? Yes, can you read?

17

00:02:21.480 --> 00:02:26.549

Town of Fairlee: And Peter gets a pretty surly. Yes.

18

00:02:27.950 --> 00:02:34.710

Town of Fairlee: anyways, we had also observed once we've got into this a bit that fairly stands alone

19

00:02:34.950 --> 00:02:43.069

Town of Fairlee: among the surrounding towns on both sides of the river for not having a Conservation commission.

20

00:02:43.920 --> 00:02:47.019

Town of Fairlee: Oh, no!

21

00:02:48.220 --> 00:02:52.959

Town of Fairlee: So the Department represents conservation commissions

22

00:02:53.250 --> 00:02:58.281

Town of Fairlee: to let us in on their secret.

23

00:02:59.660 --> 00:03:02.139

Town of Fairlee: What kind of work do these?

24

00:03:02.470 --> 00:03:03.130

Town of Fairlee: Oh.

25

00:03:03.270 --> 00:03:11.660

Town of Fairlee: commissions! Undertake! What have they accomplished? How are the members appointed? What does Conservation Commission cost each of the tenants.

26

00:03:11.830 --> 00:03:19.250

Town of Fairlee: and to whom do they look at what we've also invited. Yes, okay.

27

00:03:20.520 --> 00:03:31.079

Town of Fairlee: he's a conservation planner for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, and until recently was a board member with the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions.

28

00:03:31.330 --> 00:03:37.909

Town of Fairlee: They'll be talking about the statutory definition of conservation conditions and their history in the State.

29

00:03:40.650 --> 00:03:48.039

Town of Fairlee: The 1st half of the program will be devoted to what our 5 panelists can tell us about this topic.

30

00:03:48.530 --> 00:03:55.469

Town of Fairlee: and the second half, as I mentioned, is your chance to question the presenters in more detail. I think you'll find their

31

00:03:56.150 --> 00:04:00.719

Town of Fairlee: getting drilling down is what they're all about. As

I've advised them.

32

00:04:00.940 --> 00:04:08.640

Town of Fairlee: You you're each given 5 min. Think of it as what you do say at a cocktail party when someone says, Oh, you're on the Confirmation commission.

33

00:04:08.760 --> 00:04:13.439

Town of Fairlee: What does that do? Okay? So you're gonna get a pretty broad

34

00:04:13.942 --> 00:04:20.449

Town of Fairlee: look at things, but hopefully it will generate some questions in your questions are really what it's all about.

35

00:04:20.649 --> 00:04:24.860

Town of Fairlee: So we are really wanting to live. Speech, of lying.

36

00:04:25.610 --> 00:04:29.279

Town of Fairlee: encourage everybody to start out with a question and directed it.

37

00:04:29.400 --> 00:04:38.580

Town of Fairlee: Whichever member of the group you think would be good at answering it, and then, of course, deliberation being what it is, and when we turn and ask you a question.

38

00:04:38.780 --> 00:04:46.080

Town of Fairlee: oh, anyway, so please- please feel free to share briefly your concerns, supports and wishes.

39

00:04:46.220 --> 00:04:53.780

Town of Fairlee: But do consider this like the deliberative stage of a town meeting, but without

40

00:04:55.020 --> 00:05:02.809

Town of Fairlee: the only immediate response we will request is for each of you to fill out a part which I think maybe you were handed, and you want to jump in. Yes.

41

00:05:03.742 --> 00:05:06.100

Town of Fairlee: at the end of the meeting.

42

00:05:06.540 --> 00:05:15.529

Town of Fairlee: That will help us understand your position, indicate how you may want to participate and give us any lingering questions you may have.

43

00:05:16.030 --> 00:05:21.520

Town of Fairlee: Zoom participants will also receive a similar online response form to fill out.

44

00:05:26.135 --> 00:05:43.510

Town of Fairlee: Go right to that. One.

45

00:05:44.050 --> 00:05:58.820

Town of Fairlee: One of the housekeeping portions is I was encouraged. That don't be like you, Doug. We want this thing to move swiftly. So our time, our timekeeper, Charlotte, is sitting in the front row, and we'll flash yellow

46

00:05:59.960 --> 00:06:03.530

Town of Fairlee: or red cards to keep us on schedule.

47

00:06:03.710 --> 00:06:20.720

Town of Fairlee: and our panelists will see them. You'll see them if we start speechify a nice person, but don't cross the line when you see the red card.

48

00:06:21.220 --> 00:06:47.940

Town of Fairlee: So beyond any questions you might have for our panelists, we request that audience members who wish to make a comment, limit this to a minute, and then she'll give you the warning sign, and then you go into that section. Other housekeeping matters. We have a video conference camera as I've mentioned. I've introduced you to the owl. This will function as a shared microphone and camera for this meeting.

49

00:06:48.120 --> 00:06:51.240

Town of Fairlee: And as I mentioned, we're creating a recording and program

50

00:06:51.480 --> 00:07:05.180

Town of Fairlee: during the question and answer part. I'll call on those to raise their hand, and when it's your turn, please stand up. And at this microphone, so we can all hear you, and then state your name

51

00:07:05.630 --> 00:07:12.480

Town of Fairlee: before asking a question, and we'll also periodically share the questions from the chat.

52

00:07:14.020 --> 00:07:25.270

Town of Fairlee: Very much. Housekeeping restaurant restrooms, as you know, are downstairs, and it was the old part of the building, and also to the left that you mentioned on in the new area.

53

00:07:25.360 --> 00:07:44.360

Town of Fairlee: There is an elevator for the front of the building of this core, and in case of an emergency. So that's way back there in the corner in case of emergency exit, using the main staircase, the elevator, or the rear staircase, which is just before you get to the elevator.

54

00:07:45.930 --> 00:07:48.310

Town of Fairlee: Anybody have questions about procedures.

55

00:07:51.490 --> 00:07:53.980

Town of Fairlee: Go ahead and start with. Yes.

56

00:07:54.090 --> 00:07:58.259

Town of Fairlee: since 2,006

57

00:07:58.520 --> 00:08:05.959

Town of Fairlee: Dennisilica has worked as a conservation planning biologist with the Vermont department of fish and wildlife.

58

00:08:06.150 --> 00:08:16.749

Town of Fairlee: In that capacity. He provides technical assistance to towns, including fairly related to land use planning for wildlife habitat management.

59

00:08:17.350 --> 00:08:22.800

Town of Fairlee: and is a longtime member of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commission's Board of Directors.

60

00:08:23.000 --> 00:08:27.889

Town of Fairlee: He has been documenting hundreds of examples of outstanding conservation work

61

00:08:28.220 --> 00:08:32.807

Town of Fairlee: across the State for that group website. So I'll turn this microphone.

62

00:08:33.490 --> 00:08:38.109

Town of Fairlee: Can you ask? Can you stand up here? I can, and I sit down here.

63

00:08:38.260 --> 00:08:41.423

Town of Fairlee: You can sit down. You can stand up through here

64

00:08:41.850 --> 00:08:50.649

Town of Fairlee: all right. Thanks so much for having me this evening, everybody great to be here. So again, my name is Jens. I'm with Vermont fish and Wildlife department.

65

00:08:50.720 --> 00:09:18.300

Town of Fairlee: So about half of the towns in Vermont. A little bit more have conservation commissions, and they range from being very active to meeting somewhat sporadically. And if you look at the enabling statute that's in Vermont law. The powers and duties of the Conservation Commission is titled 24, chapter 1, 18, and you can look that up in Vermont statutes online.

66

00:09:18.300 --> 00:09:25.829

Town of Fairlee: The most critical word in that statute is May a Conservation Commission may.

67

00:09:25.980 --> 00:09:32.379

Town of Fairlee: and then there's a semicol. And then there's a long list of things that a Conservation Commission may do.

68

00:09:33.030 --> 00:09:54.279

Town of Fairlee: It doesn't say, shall it? Says May. And so there's this long list. And so that's really what begins a lot of the differences in conservation commissions across the State, because there's this long list of things that they can get into, and nothing that says what they have to get into.

69

00:09:55.080 --> 00:10:12.650

Town of Fairlee: So when I put at the top of the list in terms of what I see most often in conservation commissions across Vermont. And mind you, I've worked with about 200 of the 268 Vermont municipalities. What I see most often is this function of outreach and education.

70

00:10:12.980 --> 00:10:34.939

Town of Fairlee: And I think that's a critically important job for the Conservation Commission to get engaged in, and one that I see commissions across the State doing very well that idea of really focusing themselves on educating the town, on educating the other boards, really taking that part seriously.

71

00:10:35.150 --> 00:11:00.109

Town of Fairlee: Many other town boards. The planning commission, for example, has a very discrete task, and I mean it's huge, but at least it's discrete, and they have to move fast and furious. And so it's very difficult for a planning commission to have the time to really understand some of the natural resource issues. And they're very complex. The mapping, the data. The

72

00:11:00.110 --> 00:11:11.599

Town of Fairlee: interpretation of the mapping and data is very complex. So having the Conservation Commission that's focused on that outreach and education is critically important

73

00:11:11.600 --> 00:11:22.889

Town of Fairlee: and very helpful, for when important decisions come up in front of the town, when the CC. Has spent time CC. Conservation Commission, when the CC. Has.

74

00:11:23.541 --> 00:11:33.020

Town of Fairlee: educating the townspeople on what the issues are. The vote can be a lot easier for townspeople when they understand what it is that they're talking about.

75

00:11:33.980 --> 00:11:36.879

PETHEY-LOFT: Who's that one in the list of names.

76

00:11:37.110 --> 00:11:42.820

Town of Fairlee: And that that idea of outreach and education, another is inventory.

77

00:11:43.490 --> 00:11:56.289

Town of Fairlee: So there is heaps of available statewide data. And I, that is my job to interpret a lot of that data, and it is actionable information. There's great quality data out there.

78

00:11:56.930 --> 00:12:22.820

Town of Fairlee: But for purposes of talent planning, in my opinion, the best data that we need is field based inventory things like wall to wall natural community maps, understanding of special habitats in certain forest blocks. That sort of on the ground. Awareness is, in my opinion, the most important scale that we should be basing our planning and regulation on

79

00:12:23.860 --> 00:12:30.889

Town of Fairlee: so that inventory function is one that a lot of conservation commissions take very seriously.

80

00:12:31.250 --> 00:12:56.969

Town of Fairlee: Oftentimes they're the ones who are organizing the contract, the contract with a consultants, or they're the ones who are organizing community science efforts. And so all over Vermont, I see examples of community science, wildlife road tracking, for example, there's a really active program going on in Shrewsbury right now. We've seen that in Putney and in Salisbury there's a lot of that kind of work.

81

00:12:56.970 --> 00:13:15.380

Town of Fairlee: We do see a lot of inaturalist type of inventory work being done, and we see these, the products of aid consultants where they really do exhaustive reports, and in that case the Conservation Commission is really tasked with being the

82

00:13:15.660 --> 00:13:19.370

Town of Fairlee: between the consultant and the town, making sure

83

00:13:19.620 --> 00:13:32.189

Town of Fairlee: permission and securing it where they can, making sure the consultants don't go on land where there's not secure and so working on that function is A is another important job.

84

00:13:32.870 --> 00:14:02.569

Town of Fairlee: A conservation Commission may advise the other town boards, and this is related to that outreach and education, but it also speaks to a very special relationship between the Conservation and Commission and the Planning Commission. The planning commission is making decisions that have environmental impacts all the time as the town and the planning Commission seek to come up with the appropriate balance. What you all decide is the appropriate balance in your town.

85

00:14:03.060 --> 00:14:21.990

Town of Fairlee: Well, there are environmental impacts. And so again, the conservation can serve in that advisory role can, when tasked by the Planning Commission can provide insight into some of these decisions and can really get into that Science

86

00:14:22.560 --> 00:14:49.759

Town of Fairlee: Conservation Commission may administer the lands that the town owns. So that's a function of stewardship. And in some towns I do see the Town Conservation Commission stewarding town owned lands in other towns. I don't see that function? This question is very much up to the town, and the select board in terms of what the direction is that is most appropriate for the town.

87

00:14:50.080 --> 00:15:08.609

Town of Fairlee: The Town Commission may accept grants may have its own budget, and may may accept donations of land and money and keep its own separate conservation fund moving forward. All those are Mays.

88

00:15:09.510 --> 00:15:11.830

Town of Fairlee: So the work that I

89

00:15:12.140 --> 00:15:35.939

Town of Fairlee: commissions is pretty varied. In some towns conservation commissions actually do development review. They look at every single proposed development. I only know maybe 2 or 3 towns that do that. In other towns they take. They take stewardship of the town of land very seriously, and some town conservation commissions are only

90

00:15:36.310 --> 00:15:41.709

Town of Fairlee: focused on that land management trail maintenance function

91

00:15:41.800 --> 00:16:06.560

Town of Fairlee: in other towns. They're very involved in the town planning process, and I see them working every 8 years on the update of the town plan. I see them advising the planning commissions. In some cases there's a member who attends every single planning commission meeting to ensure that the 2 boards are operating effectively together, and also advising on

92

00:16:06.560 --> 00:16:15.089

Town of Fairlee: updates to the zoning code or the subdivision code, or whatever the development regulatory policies may or may not be in the town.

93

00:16:15.350 --> 00:16:24.499

Town of Fairlee: So I'm trying to give you a smattering of the the diversity of natural conservation commissions that we see Statewide

94

00:16:25.130 --> 00:16:54.479

Town of Fairlee: now a Conservation Commission is part of town government. They represent the people of the town, they speak to the benefits of those natural resources for the people of that town. And so it's fundamentally important to understand that this is a part of your town government that is representing you and speaking for those natural resource issues. And that's a critically important piece here is that understanding. This isn't an outside group.

95

00:16:54.480 --> 00:16:56.849

Town of Fairlee: This is part of your municipality.

96

00:16:58.580 --> 00:17:06.017

Town of Fairlee: Now we also we, we see conservation commissions working very effectively statewide.

97

00:17:06.740 --> 00:17:26.160

Town of Fairlee: in some cases we'll see conservation boards or or conservation committees that are different. They're an ad hoc. They're standing version of a full time Conservation commission. And so there is. There is some real. There's some real differences in how commissions have been set up across the State.

98

00:17:26.880 --> 00:17:28.390

Town of Fairlee: So those are

99

00:17:28.620 --> 00:17:40.279

Town of Fairlee: 3 remarks to get it started in terms of understanding what the statute says, understanding some of the some of the breadth and depth of conservation commissions across Vermont.

100

00:17:40.925 --> 00:17:46.869

Town of Fairlee: Yes, and I think with that I'll amazing. 5 min.

101

00:17:47.746 --> 00:17:50.943

Town of Fairlee: Think I've done this. Thank you

102

00:17:52.140 --> 00:18:04.279

Town of Fairlee: better than I am at this. Very good, but that was a good overview. And and think of all the questions that pause in your mind, so we can, you know, dig deeper. What's what? What Jensen just said

103

00:18:05.305 --> 00:18:11.834

Town of Fairlee: next part's pretty straightforward. These are all people who are wonderful volunteers in their town.

104

00:18:12.740 --> 00:18:32.970

Town of Fairlee: they're out there doing the fun stuff, and they're not so fun stuff. They're pulling Japanese potweed and then they're riding. They're riding mountain bikes and tours and things like that. They're hiking all over work right here. I just looked up each of the town reports from 2,023 calendar year for each of these

105

00:18:33.420 --> 00:18:38.150

Town of Fairlee: 4 pounds. And the diversity was immense.

106

00:18:38.600 --> 00:18:50.190

Town of Fairlee: A lot of things that drew people in, particularly students. And so I'm really interested to hear specifically what they're going to get into here. So we're going to start at the far end

107

00:18:50.370 --> 00:19:00.439

Town of Fairlee: with Nancy Jones, who's a chair of the Bradford Conservation Commission. She can speak with microphone there, or point of wherever you're

108

00:19:14.720 --> 00:19:26.760

Town of Fairlee: with an article on Channel morning, and that oh.

109

00:19:27.120 --> 00:19:37.149

Town of Fairlee: and we don't, they're saying, have admission stated. But we have a couple of quotes, and one of them, I have no idea where it came from did not.

110

00:19:37.720 --> 00:19:50.409

Town of Fairlee: and we have this posted at our kiosk, and several of our 1st one is stewardship is fostering a love and understanding of the leader

111

00:19:50.520 --> 00:19:57.489

Town of Fairlee: through experience and restoration and public access.

112

00:19:57.970 --> 00:20:01.860

Town of Fairlee: and we sort of use that as design principle.

113

00:20:02.430 --> 00:20:13.560

Town of Fairlee: and another one that I particularly like is a quote from Doug Dion, who was the Director General of Water and Forestry in Senegal in the sixties.

114

00:20:13.970 --> 00:20:17.269

Town of Fairlee: and he said, NM.

115

00:20:17.410 --> 00:20:26.719

Town of Fairlee: We will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.

116

00:20:30.220 --> 00:20:45.930

Town of Fairlee: So one of the things that the Conservation Commission did after establishment is, write a set of bylaws. And basically the bylaws are patterned after the Vermont statute, as as said and included in that

117

00:20:47.110 --> 00:20:51.560

Town of Fairlee: inventory land acquisition.

118

00:20:52.090 --> 00:21:04.390

Town of Fairlee: We haven't had in touch public representation, education and information, and then add to that sure. Jeff

119

00:21:05.150 --> 00:21:07.215

Town of Fairlee: and I lost my last page.

120

00:21:11.584 --> 00:21:16.895

Town of Fairlee: So I'm gonna inventories.

121

00:21:18.330 --> 00:21:27.220

Town of Fairlee: We were able to get a Grant, and we hired Arrowwood Environmental, who conducted weapons inventory in 2,005.

122

00:21:27.590 --> 00:21:34.009

Town of Fairlee: Even before that we worked with the Vermont Urban and Community Forest Department

123

00:21:34.310 --> 00:21:41.510

Town of Fairlee: to do a roadside to trade us, and we obtained the roadside trade inventory in 1995,

124

00:21:42.000 --> 00:21:49.750

Town of Fairlee: in 2,014. Again, we hired Arrowwood Environmental to do a natural resources inventory at the time.

125

00:21:50.280 --> 00:21:52.660

Town of Fairlee: and in 2023,

126

00:21:52.880 --> 00:22:03.610

Town of Fairlee: one of our members, who is a florister, and our tree Warden conducted the Riverside Ash green inventory which is going to be a valuable

127

00:22:03.790 --> 00:22:14.980

Town of Fairlee: tool with this web. Organize, what do you need to be removed before they become on the land acquisition?

128

00:22:16.350 --> 00:22:20.500

Town of Fairlee: Sometimes we get accused of conserving too much land too fast.

129

00:22:21.070 --> 00:22:24.939

Town of Fairlee: But if you look at the dates that's not really happy with.

130

00:22:26.060 --> 00:22:28.679

Town of Fairlee: In 1994

131

00:22:28.970 --> 00:22:35.320

Town of Fairlee: we were able to purchase and conserve the original rational parcel, which is 218 acres.

132

00:22:35.690 --> 00:22:39.420

Town of Fairlee: and 10 years later, 2,004,

133

00:22:39.610 --> 00:22:44.869

Town of Fairlee: we were able to purchase and reserve those 7,008 years

134

00:22:45.470 --> 00:22:54.590

Town of Fairlee: and 4 years after that we purchased and conserved a hundred 65 acre, dangerous parcel, and then 2,010,

135

00:22:54.730 --> 00:23:01.490

Town of Fairlee: 2 time expire, sometimes 62 acres, and then 2,012,

136

00:23:02.200 --> 00:23:11.000

Town of Fairlee: which now is 13 years ago. The bronze on 12 acres, which totals our campers. At 517 acres

137

00:23:12.830 --> 00:23:19.470

Town of Fairlee: 2, we created a conservation fund with violence

138

00:23:20.060 --> 00:23:25.490

Town of Fairlee: that were signed by the select board, which made it official, and as of

139

00:23:25.670 --> 00:23:33.550

Town of Fairlee: the end of 2024, I think there was about \$90,000 left in that fund, and of course we use it.

140

00:23:34.530 --> 00:23:45.270

Town of Fairlee: or the 2,001 purchase for it, and-, and also to the for the 2,008 purchase.

141

00:23:45.730 --> 00:23:48.690

Town of Fairlee: as well as some folks, came from the town

142

00:23:50.280 --> 00:23:57.600

Town of Fairlee: under land management. We manage rights and time for us. Trail construction and maintenance.

143

00:23:59.360 --> 00:24:05.160

Town of Fairlee: repairs to the cabins. I don't know if you know there's a cabin at the summit that we spoke

144

00:24:05.610 --> 00:24:06.910

Town of Fairlee: universities.

145

00:24:07.820 --> 00:24:12.589

Town of Fairlee: We maintain the kiosk, we do have trail maps.

146

00:24:13.080 --> 00:24:17.549

Town of Fairlee: We established the French rights not fund to pay for maintenance projects.

147

00:24:17.830 --> 00:24:23.109

Town of Fairlee: such as parking areas, a new access road arriving.

148

00:24:23.500 --> 00:24:30.169

Town of Fairlee: And my Indian friends right now finder harvest over the years.

149

00:24:30.310 --> 00:24:33.379

Town of Fairlee: Or sometimes they can do that. So we go.

150

00:24:33.590 --> 00:24:45.309

Town of Fairlee: Ms. Jones, okay, public representation in 2,016, the Resident by the Us. Department of the Interior.

151

00:24:46.180 --> 00:24:54.080

Town of Fairlee: We've also Plan Commission, which Pcc. Complete financial section. I believe it is.

152

00:24:55.290 --> 00:24:58.779

Town of Fairlee: we formed an energy sector many years ago.

153

00:24:59.170 --> 00:25:05.750

Town of Fairlee: which is now involved into the Grant and Climate and Energy Commission of separate Entity. On

154

00:25:06.250 --> 00:25:14.070

Town of Fairlee: and this past year we celebrated the 30 year anniversary of Rice Mountain, and 20 year anniversary of Everton.

155

00:25:14.420 --> 00:25:21.619

Town of Fairlee: being open and enjoyed and open to everyone in the town, and everyone in the town and outside the town.

156

00:25:22.760 --> 00:25:32.229

Town of Fairlee: other education and information with you doing that.

157

00:25:32.350 --> 00:25:41.639

Town of Fairlee: And we also collaborated with one year to do the dance and love film festival, which is fun.

158

00:25:41.920 --> 00:25:46.310

Town of Fairlee: We started keeping track 10 week for us. That, I said.

159

00:25:46.610 --> 00:25:52.649

Town of Fairlee: we have 12 to 15 local participants.

160

00:25:52.840 --> 00:25:59.960

Town of Fairlee: a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduate, senior pursuing natural resources, course of study.

161

00:26:00.640 --> 00:26:10.620

Town of Fairlee: design, and so interpretive science and task force. One is about migratory birds, 2 about colonel tools, one about double study.

162

00:26:11.360 --> 00:26:20.220

Town of Fairlee: and we're responsible. Keep keeping track of them.

163

00:26:20.680 --> 00:26:25.060

Town of Fairlee: We wanted wayfaring roadsides and direct travelers to the Channel for us.

164

00:26:25.710 --> 00:26:36.270

Town of Fairlee: We also years ago established rapid area. Conferencing program is now Sanford Farm.

165

00:26:39.440 --> 00:26:44.389

Town of Fairlee: an understanding of suppose, to this kind of

166

00:26:44.610 --> 00:27:05.550

Town of Fairlee: once a year on Community Service Day room. The trails in preparation for the annual race to the top, which is so every year has more and more participants. There's a final number of kids, 13 and under. And this year we had this passionate 65 young people running.

167

00:27:05.970 --> 00:27:09.720

Town of Fairlee: and I think something like \$49 or anything like that.

168

00:27:09.950 --> 00:27:11.180

Town of Fairlee: It's not.

169

00:27:11.410 --> 00:27:15.990

Town of Fairlee: And it's the 1st Saturday in June, on National Thursday,

170

00:27:19.300 --> 00:27:29.739

Town of Fairlee: and we also have had classes from Riverbed and Oxford, using town forest as an outdoor classroom.

171

00:27:30.440 --> 00:27:38.750

Town of Fairlee: and I think that's to share. But if you have questions later on, I'm happy to respond.

172

00:27:40.104 --> 00:27:46.179

Town of Fairlee: Thank you, Nancy, address the question of whether he ran in the ultra Marathon.

173

00:27:46.490 --> 00:28:00.899

Town of Fairlee: did I did you? The devil is done. I was the coffee maker for that 30 h. 30 h. Yeah, we

174

00:28:01.160 --> 00:28:06.870

Town of Fairlee: completed a hundred miles, and there was one woman that completed 83, Max.

175

00:28:07.150 --> 00:28:08.790

Town of Fairlee: I mean, that's what I would do.

176

00:28:09.526 --> 00:28:14.723

Town of Fairlee: Thank you very much, Nancy. Sounds like you guys have done a few things.

177

00:28:17.110 --> 00:28:20.950

Town of Fairlee: Bob Hedges, Walker, right? Last night.

178

00:28:21.160 --> 00:28:22.890

Town of Fairlee: Some publication.

179

00:28:23.690 --> 00:28:24.960

Town of Fairlee: Okay, I did.

180

00:28:27.820 --> 00:28:51.459

Town of Fairlee: Hi, thank you for inviting me. As Jen said earlier like in Vermont, New Hampshire, where the Confirmation, the

Conservation Commission orders a product of stable, Rsa. 36, a. Which mandates the Commission's job is to promote

181

00:28:51.460 --> 00:29:03.870

Town of Fairlee: the proper utilization and protection of natural resources and protect watershed resource. So that's something we'll take off and that also, as you described, it's interpretable. Lots of different ways.

182

00:29:03.980 --> 00:29:22.820

Town of Fairlee: But the 1st most important lens to interpret it through is, what resources do you have to work with against that mission? And then projects and activities that are in alignment with the resources that we have. The conservation orbit has a budget of less than \$5,000.

183

00:29:23.353 --> 00:29:37.220

Town of Fairlee: We have 12 slots on the Conservation Commission, which we currently have 7 active Commissioners and we'd add 3 or 4 more, but 12 to the number of 12.

184

00:29:37.610 --> 00:29:43.189

Town of Fairlee: you know the typical sure on the private kind of work for.

185

00:29:43.630 --> 00:29:53.300

Town of Fairlee: And it's 10 HA month on Conservation Commission activities. When I lose our meeting every 3.rd

186

00:29:54.030 --> 00:30:13.400

Town of Fairlee: Each month starts at 7, always by 8, and then the other 9 h at some combination of project activity, heights, and in theory prep work before you come to the meeting. We also spend a fair amount of time. In phone calls.

187

00:30:13.830 --> 00:30:17.429

Town of Fairlee: That's 10 people 100 h of

188

00:30:19.260 --> 00:30:39.539

Town of Fairlee: plus \$5,000, plus an extended group of maybe 25 volunteers out of 10 that we have gotten involved through hikes, or we convinced to join us on really fun projects like not Japanese winner.

The the Commission is accountable.

189

00:30:39.640 --> 00:31:03.099

Town of Fairlee: Every member of the Commission has been appointed by the Select board and every meeting which is once a month a member of the Select Board joins us joins us for the meeting. So, having said that, I think the in terms of the resource limitations and the way we get work done. I think the the the great thing about the Conservation Commission in Orford

190

00:31:03.100 --> 00:31:23.810

Town of Fairlee: is, it is very mission focused around, promoting awareness of the wonderful natural resources in the town of Orford and getting engagement of people in the town to participate in our projects in our heights, in getting our doors. So we have some activities in which we actually fulfill

191

00:31:24.652 --> 00:31:35.267

Town of Fairlee: civic responsibilities or in a much larger town. Part of the town's you know, road maintenance crew or town you know, maintenance

192

00:31:36.170 --> 00:31:39.650

Town of Fairlee: can we do water tests just around?

193

00:31:40.260 --> 00:31:43.810

Town of Fairlee: It's probably the or we can do all the easing.

194

00:31:44.140 --> 00:32:05.910

Town of Fairlee: the town, the set of easements that the town has. So we have volunteers to do work again in a larger town. They have paid staff that use that does that. We take care of it ourselves. I think that the fun things we get to do is we're working on a whole series of hiking and trail work projects. We're pretty committed to the idea of helping

195

00:32:06.140 --> 00:32:17.839

Town of Fairlee: the road trail through the town of Orford, and getting the community involved in doing that. We had some longer range projects, like a review of all the culverts in the town.

196

00:32:18.190 --> 00:32:29.959

Town of Fairlee: 194% time. Warford. Many of them are more than 50 years old. And given some of the things we're seeing with the climate, we're pretty vulnerable to impact impact there.

197

00:32:30.270 --> 00:32:33.820

Town of Fairlee: Oh, here's the things we're excited about

198

00:32:33.920 --> 00:32:38.560

Town of Fairlee: most. The thing we're most excited about is the 55 hikers we head out

199

00:32:38.590 --> 00:32:58.830

Town of Fairlee: last Sunday night of the full moon in Conservation land by making Mason over by the at corridor. So we're getting really good turnout engagement in town. We've restarted to set. We're in the process. We started to set up projects with Ribbondale Academy to work within the science classes.

200

00:32:58.830 --> 00:33:10.609

Town of Fairlee: As you may know, Riverdale Academy has relaunched its outing club after it's been defunct for a number of years. So we work with the Outing Club, another pool of volunteers and participants.

201

00:33:10.610 --> 00:33:13.560

Town of Fairlee: Another way to build awareness

202

00:33:14.420 --> 00:33:23.679

Town of Fairlee: engagement in town. The other thing that we're planning to be building on the earlier comments is we're gonna sponsor a hike

203

00:33:23.840 --> 00:33:38.399

Town of Fairlee: from Mount Cube to the Connecticut River in September. So it's about 13 miles, and see if we can get the same kind of high turnout that you have on the right mountain hikes hikes in the past.

204

00:33:38.630 --> 00:33:44.179

Town of Fairlee: So I think the the hopefully through my comments that you're saying it's really about community involvement.

205

00:33:45.123 --> 00:33:52.596

Town of Fairlee: It's really about education really valuing the community and resources the town has. And

206

00:33:53.510 --> 00:33:58.200

Town of Fairlee: we do it with very little budget and no staff.

207

00:34:04.940 --> 00:34:13.269

Town of Fairlee: thank you. Goodness exhausted just by the 1st 2 speakers. All the things they do.

208

00:34:14.239 --> 00:34:17.989

Town of Fairlee: next Speaker is going to be Krista Carlson. She's a

209

00:34:18.210 --> 00:34:46.039

Town of Fairlee: chair now of the Conservation Commission. I had the pleasure of meeting with both Betford and West Fair Lake Conservation commissions as part of the Rogue Group. I was still on called the Treasure Island Committee, and would often get out of control, and then by the select board, go, talk to these people. I'll keep you in bounds, so they do get a lot of respect from the select board. I have to say. So

210

00:34:49.810 --> 00:34:50.710

Town of Fairlee: thanks.

211

00:34:51.110 --> 00:35:09.180

Town of Fairlee: So I'm Krista. I'm from the Conservation Commission, and I'm co-chair so the Conservation Commission was established in 1987, and over the years the Conservation Commission has taken on all sorts of different projects. So really early on

212

00:35:09.180 --> 00:35:21.189

Town of Fairlee: the Commission was involved in cleaning up the post mills landfill, and that that was a an issue that dragged on for years and years, and so they kept a really close eye on like, how can we have a great outcome here?

213

00:35:21.190 --> 00:35:41.619

Town of Fairlee: They also have been really involved in Grant Day, which I'm sure you all are aware of. We have a really strong Grant Day presence. Every year past commissions, wrote the 1st Townlands

Management plan, which was a plan for stewarding the 4 largest town forests.

214

00:35:42.630 --> 00:35:46.280

Town of Fairlee: Also conserving the land, as

215

00:35:46.410 --> 00:35:58.829

Town of Fairlee: previous folks have mentioned. So there's a wide variety of things that we do. Currently our primary charges are stewarding the 4 town forests.

216

00:35:59.474 --> 00:36:09.010

Town of Fairlee: Public education, as has been mentioned several times advising the select Board and the town manager. That's a big one. So

217

00:36:09.240 --> 00:36:34.370

Town of Fairlee: examples of things that the Conservation Commission might advise the select board on mowing, you know, when. So there's a lot of bases on the roadside. When is the best time to mow? Knowing that we might spread those bases everywhere around. So just today, Jim and I were talking about the mowing plan. So that's an example of something that we would provide. Kind of a

218

00:36:35.158 --> 00:36:52.471

Town of Fairlee: I don't. I'm gonna say, expert. We're not all experts, but informed opinion for the town to take into account another example of advising that's available to the town manager would be like this year great River Hydro is going through their relicensing

219

00:36:53.130 --> 00:36:54.020

Town of Fairlee: and

220

00:36:54.210 --> 00:37:04.930

Town of Fairlee: the Conservation Commission has, you know, spoken with our selector and our town manager to give, like our opinion on, you know. Curious what that bird should be thinking about during this process.

221

00:37:05.940 --> 00:37:09.300

Town of Fairlee: Related to conservation water.

222

00:37:10.010 --> 00:37:26.519

Town of Fairlee: Another thing we do which is not glamorous is, we provide public comments on issues affecting our town and our State. So I mentioned great river high time relicensing. We also provide public comments to the State on deer management in Thetford

223

00:37:26.992 --> 00:37:44.490

Town of Fairlee: we provide public comments on issues like the Vermont Climate Action Plan. So we are sort of trying to use our collective knowledge and wisdom to provide public comments on issues that we think impact our town.

224

00:37:46.180 --> 00:38:07.660

Town of Fairlee: so then, in terms of the nuts and bolts, we have 9 members. Over the past 2 years we've been trying to diversify the professional backgrounds on the board so that we have a really broad array of interests and professional like what people bring to the table. We, I think

225

00:38:07.810 --> 00:38:35.429

Town of Fairlee: our hours per month are a little lower than yours, Bob, I think realistically, it's probably 5 HA month for most people, and then a lot more than that for a few people. But I think that's always a challenge into is that it's volunteer board. And so, you know. You have to kind of balance your needs with what people are able to offer. We have a select board liaison as Bob mentioned, which is really great. So

226

00:38:35.630 --> 00:38:39.679

Town of Fairlee: every meeting, and then can report back to the selector on what we've discussed.

227

00:38:40.304 --> 00:38:49.140

Town of Fairlee: And now I'm gonna be a little sheepish and say, I think we have the biggest budget. We get about \$15,000 a year from the town.

228

00:38:49.630 --> 00:38:57.520

Town of Fairlee: and that we have a couple of different plans that that goes into. But that money is used to steward. Our time

229

00:38:57.650 --> 00:39:01.450

Town of Fairlee: also used to, was purchased on.

230

00:39:01.630 --> 00:39:12.514

Town of Fairlee: when appropriate, used to help us with our be able to bring in speakers and pay for their time because their time is valued.

231

00:39:14.640 --> 00:39:16.499

Town of Fairlee: you know,

232

00:39:17.630 --> 00:39:46.259

Town of Fairlee: management plan, which we just updated this year. One of our goals for a lot of our parcels invasives is management, and that's expensive. So you know, it's going to cost us tens of thousands of dollars. If we decide to go that route, it's going to cost money to pay a professional to come and help us with our invasives. Treatment. Because it's not just, you know, one little patch of Northwestern. It's like acres and acres of invasives.

233

00:39:46.630 --> 00:39:50.418

Town of Fairlee: So that's just an example of something that you might spend money on

234

00:39:50.860 --> 00:40:13.550

Town of Fairlee: And then, looking ahead, we're really trying to focus on increasing connection with our other commissions and committees in town. So you know, there's all these committees full of people who are doing good work, who don't always talk to each other. And so we're trying to forge connections with the Housing Committee and the Energy Committee and the Planning Commission and make sure that we know what everybody's working on.

235

00:40:13.982 --> 00:40:37.960

Town of Fairlee: We want to make sure our work is mutually beneficial, and we can help inform decisions like saying that maybe the planning commission will make down the line. So we're wrapping up our natural resources inventory with Jesse, who's here and that is going to help us move to the next phase of creating maps that can help the planning commission and others make informed decisions down the line.

236

00:40:38.674 --> 00:40:49.959

Town of Fairlee: And then I guess the other thing that both Nancy and Bob have mentioned. That's not really a focus of ours is trails. So that front has like a separate.

237

00:40:50.870 --> 00:40:57.910

Town of Fairlee: This is just a but the focus is on trails. So that's not conservation, Commissioner.

238

00:40:58.390 --> 00:41:06.000

Town of Fairlee: But I'd point out that there are differences in how we how we operate but yeah, we have a lot of fun, and

239

00:41:06.160 --> 00:41:09.750

Town of Fairlee: that's really great work done, and I'll leave you there.

240

00:41:10.360 --> 00:41:12.030

Town of Fairlee: Great. Thank you.

241

00:41:12.530 --> 00:41:29.800

Town of Fairlee: I especially appreciate this. This is one of the diversities again referring to. Here's a town that has a trails group and they do their thing and they do it coordination. But they don't overlap each other, or they don't step on each other's boot cycle.

242

00:41:30.160 --> 00:41:51.350

Town of Fairlee: Didn't mention the Inaugural Salamander Crossing event. But that's okay. Any salamanders in the audience. Our final speaker. If you can tell. It's hard to keep these people into 5 missions, I think. Because they are enthusiastic about what they do but appreciate you that they come here and that they're

243

00:41:52.190 --> 00:41:57.880

Town of Fairlee: they spend a lot of energy, and they're the last speaker is Alyssa.

244

00:41:58.140 --> 00:42:09.131

Town of Fairlee: who is chair of the West Early Conservation Commission, and if you have a chance, ask her about swimming.

245

00:42:13.710 --> 00:42:25.923

Town of Fairlee: Hi, everyone! I'm Melissa. I am the chair of the West Fair Conservation Commission. This is actually my 1st call to duty. I just took over the

246

00:42:26.640 --> 00:42:28.250

Town of Fairlee: oh, that's fair!

247

00:42:28.610 --> 00:42:34.370

Town of Fairlee: Was formed by the town in 2,005 we have 8 members.

248

00:42:34.660 --> 00:42:42.370

Town of Fairlee: and 2 of whom these past few years have actually been local high schoolers in our town. Who have been

249

00:42:42.680 --> 00:42:46.410

Town of Fairlee: conservation commission stuff as part of their like homeschooling

250

00:42:46.650 --> 00:43:00.239

Town of Fairlee: community, and do some good projects that way. Their energy has been really awesome for us. And it's great to have 2 teenage boys that can help do some of the heavy lifting when we do that.

251

00:43:00.830 --> 00:43:06.000

Town of Fairlee: It had. The Conservation Commission had very humble beginnings with no funds.

252

00:43:06.660 --> 00:43:20.240

Town of Fairlee: Our bank account has grown in the last 20 years. We typically operate within a budget of about one to \$2,000 a year. And so you can start with very little and still accomplish a lot.

253

00:43:20.560 --> 00:43:22.570

Town of Fairlee: The West fairly CC.

254

00:43:22.670 --> 00:43:33.030

Town of Fairlee: The stewardship plan for our town forest, and that includes with helping with boundary, marking documentation and treatment of invasives which I've just spoken to.

255

00:43:33.100 --> 00:44:01.220

Town of Fairlee: But our scope is also much more widespread than just the town forest and our projects are really directed by community

members and interest in kind of what they would like to see done, as well as the members on the CC. And the energy and passion that they have for various projects. So in terms of kind of hourly commitments, you know it ebbs and flows with what we have going on, and what people feel the most devoted to.

256

00:44:01.220 --> 00:44:03.230

Town of Fairlee: and want to put their energy into.

257

00:44:03.920 --> 00:44:24.639

Town of Fairlee: Among other things, we lead community walks in our outdoor spaces. We promote and help to ensure that green update happens successfully. We've partnered with our neighboring towns to bring workshops, educational events, film tests, and we offer education to the town for things like learning, the inaturalist app and being able to use that as a community member.

258

00:44:24.870 --> 00:44:42.919

Town of Fairlee: we create and tend to our trails, and we pursue avenues for more recreational trail opportunities in town. We've done map making natural resource inventories. We do fun projects with teachers and school kids. We had a really fun eclipse party with shire this past year.

259

00:44:43.680 --> 00:45:07.269

Town of Fairlee: We've built pollinator gardens and helped with water quality testing, and that has been useful to the town. So, more than anything, I think, as a conservation commission, we really strive to stay in touch with our residents and what they would like our energy to be going to, and making sure that our actions are aligning with their priorities for the natural resources.

260

00:45:07.650 --> 00:45:08.275

Town of Fairlee: Thanks.

261

00:45:10.910 --> 00:45:12.019

Town of Fairlee: Well, thank you.

262

00:45:12.680 --> 00:45:17.200

Town of Fairlee: One of the things I noticed in reading up on what you've done the previous year was

263

00:45:17.360 --> 00:45:30.000

Town of Fairlee: future of the Brushwood Forest, and there's people here who are largely responsible for that being formed. That was a pretty recent event. How that was brought together by people in West Fairley. And now

264

00:45:30.630 --> 00:45:40.679

Town of Fairlee: there's an entity that is going to be, you know, proactive, and saying, now that we have it, what do we do with it? Take care of it. It's a little appreciated section of

265

00:45:41.290 --> 00:45:44.749

Town of Fairlee: that whole area of the Bloodbrook Valley.

266

00:45:46.590 --> 00:45:54.669

Town of Fairlee: Anyway, thanks to our panelists again for coming out on this whole evening, and to help us understand what conservation commissions do in each of their towns.

267

00:45:55.150 --> 00:46:14.800

Town of Fairlee: And so now I'm going to open up the floor to questions from the audience. As noted before. Please raise your hand, and when I call on you, Peter Guest will send you this microphone. Take it out of my hands and take it to you. State your name before asking the question and again feel free to make a comment that we will try to limit that

268

00:46:14.910 --> 00:46:23.620

Town of Fairlee: speechifying. We really want this to be a dialogue conversation and use the expertise of these

269

00:46:23.880 --> 00:46:30.110

Town of Fairlee: these visitors. The best of that's that's possible, so that we can

270

00:46:31.090 --> 00:46:34.790

Town of Fairlee: close the meeting eventually by asking, Where do we go from here

271

00:46:37.820 --> 00:46:39.100

Town of Fairlee: any questions.

272

00:46:46.360 --> 00:47:02.950

Town of Fairlee: Thank you. I think I would address this to yes, although a number of you have mentioned invasive species. So we have a section of State Highway, which the town does not mow. It is mowed, as far as I understand, by the State.

273

00:47:03.160 --> 00:47:05.450

Town of Fairlee: and we have

274

00:47:05.860 --> 00:47:24.940

Town of Fairlee: huge amounts of garlic mustard around there, and they wait to mow until after the seed is set, and I can see when they go by. The seeds are just flying on. Is there anything the Conservation Commission could do about addressing something that's really a function of the State at this point

275

00:47:28.570 --> 00:47:56.679

Town of Fairlee: I can just yell it. Well, yes, but that's trying to save your tax dollars. So they're intentionally waiting as long as they possibly can to mow, because they're trying to cut back on mowing costs, and so each district has its own budget for mowing, and the district administrator is responsible for allocating those mowing contracts. So the decision is made within this

276

00:47:56.680 --> 00:48:19.039

Town of Fairlee: V trans. District, and I have no idea what the district boundaries are or how that lines up, but it is done within the district that's that's here in that covers fairly, and they're trying to save money. And you can certainly comment you can certainly open dialogue with the district administrator.

277

00:48:19.424 --> 00:48:44.410

Town of Fairlee: Even though their budget has maybe 2 or 3 times more zeros than mine does, they are still very strapped for cash in terms of maintaining the total amount of infrastructure that's out there. So they've been hesitant to deal with with invasives. Let's just say that. Thank you. We've actually had good luck with the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation with invasives

278

00:48:44.500 --> 00:49:12.240

Town of Fairlee: on 25 A and 10 we flag with marking tape the areas that are most problematic. We know the regional manager and talk to him regularly on the phone, and when they come out they go. They go

out of their way to not cut those areas, and then we go in with our army of volunteers and pull the knot we so you know, we have a we have a nice story of great cooperation to say.

279

00:49:12.860 --> 00:49:14.999

Town of Fairlee: anybody back here had a question

280

00:49:16.920 --> 00:49:20.250

Town of Fairlee: cause. The issue is a real issue.

281

00:49:20.900 --> 00:49:29.020

Town of Fairlee: Hello, Scott, sergeant as

282

00:49:30.390 --> 00:49:36.169

Town of Fairlee: some land in fairly and some in Bradford, and just wondering

283

00:49:37.140 --> 00:49:41.849

Town of Fairlee: why, at this point do we need

284

00:49:41.990 --> 00:49:49.500

Town of Fairlee: to involve another bureaucracy to kind of deal with our lands?

285

00:49:49.680 --> 00:49:56.120

Town of Fairlee: And I know a little bit about the fairy forest, and I've traveled on it. I

286

00:49:56.320 --> 00:50:06.490

Town of Fairlee: or Wheeler done all of those things, and I guess this is probably a few questions all at once. But

287

00:50:06.880 --> 00:50:15.680

Town of Fairlee: one of them is, is, why do we need this Conservation Commission to to spend our taxpayers dollars

288

00:50:15.980 --> 00:50:19.250

Town of Fairlee: and to come in and to control this

289

00:50:19.390 --> 00:50:24.890

Town of Fairlee: are fairly and next, what are the restrictions that might be

290

00:50:25.170 --> 00:50:32.280

Town of Fairlee: brought into play that may restrict some of the fairly residents from

291

00:50:32.450 --> 00:50:40.183

Town of Fairlee: using this plan that was set aside for them to use, I believe, and and

292

00:50:44.020 --> 00:50:52.010

Town of Fairlee: I guess I guess most of the big questions for me are there's

293

00:50:52.150 --> 00:50:56.170

Town of Fairlee: 7th generation provider. We don't take timely to

294

00:50:56.360 --> 00:51:01.359

Town of Fairlee: bureaucracies coming in and kind of telling us what we need to do

295

00:51:01.690 --> 00:51:12.630

Town of Fairlee: with our land. I mean, I could just speak generally about that. I know that there's some positive attributes now and then, but

296

00:51:12.750 --> 00:51:20.730

Town of Fairlee: I guess why? Well, can that be addressed either by panelists.

297

00:51:21.080 --> 00:51:25.359

Town of Fairlee: or is anybody in the audience from Fairy who wishes to answer that thing.

298

00:51:26.070 --> 00:51:30.229

Town of Fairlee: Okay, did I just parse that out?

299

00:51:31.992 --> 00:51:40.439

Town of Fairlee: So I'm not from here. I don't have a horse in this race. This isn't my decision. Right? Let's just be clear about that right up front.

300

00:51:40.440 --> 00:52:10.290

Town of Fairlee: But you use the word control. And 1st of all. I don't think there are any controls being put in place by the formation of a Conservation Commission. Everything about the Conservation Commission is advisory. There's nothing regulatory unless the town decides to empower the Conservation Commission to do that. So there's no added control here being discussed. The Conservation Commission doesn't do that.

301

00:52:10.674 --> 00:52:30.520

Town of Fairlee: Should the conservation. Should a Conservation Commission be empowered to steward town on land, then, I imagine they could try. They could. They would have that power. But it doesn't sound. It sounds like there's a another town board who's responsible for that. And so that's the other sort of piece is.

302

00:52:30.720 --> 00:52:55.420

Town of Fairlee: I don't know that a Conservation Commission would necessarily be responsible for stewarding the town forest. That's the decision that you all would make in terms of what's the purview of the Conservation Commission. That's what a Conservation Commission does. Yes, they are purely Advisory Board to the extent that they're empowered by the town

303

00:52:55.420 --> 00:53:02.849

Town of Fairlee: to administer down on land then. Yes, they could. They could limit certain behaviors. But just as the

304

00:53:03.150 --> 00:53:17.490

Town of Fairlee: does committee so. But that's all up to the town. That's nothing. There's nothing inherent in a Conservation commission about that. But to speak to the the positive, the A Town Conservation Commission wouldn't

305

00:53:17.490 --> 00:53:34.969

Town of Fairlee: only operate in a town forest. The whole idea is that it is town wide. So it's speaking to the natural resources that are present across the whole town, not just in that town forest, so that educational component, that ability to

306

00:53:35.160 --> 00:53:43.009

Town of Fairlee: all of the natural resources that are present in town and help people understand what those are and sell.

307

00:53:43.220 --> 00:53:47.189

Town of Fairlee: In my opinion. That's the real benefit of a Conservation commission.

308

00:53:47.370 --> 00:54:01.019

Town of Fairlee: So I think the it's too early to say what specific responsibilities would be whose I believe. That's totally up to the town select board should they decide to empower such a commission.

309

00:54:01.520 --> 00:54:09.109

Town of Fairlee: So those decisions haven't aren't prejudged by the idea of it being a commission, if you understand.

310

00:54:10.050 --> 00:54:15.410

Town of Fairlee: And Nancy wanted me to speak to that, hey, Scott?

311

00:54:15.630 --> 00:54:17.189

Town of Fairlee: In fact.

312

00:54:18.560 --> 00:54:25.400

Town of Fairlee: We made our Conservation Commission, made recommendations to the Select Board about Atv use.

313

00:54:25.710 --> 00:54:31.580

Town of Fairlee: and it is restricted. It's it's a town thing. It's not, but something that we

314

00:54:32.660 --> 00:54:54.906

Town of Fairlee: insisted upon. We recommended that hunting is allowed on the land Snowmobile is allowed on the land. I'm not sure what restrictions you're thinking about. The other thing. I wanted to mention what you said about. Yes, about being a town line entity. I just remembered the other part of my presentation. That was beautification. We

315

00:54:55.600 --> 00:55:12.090

Town of Fairlee: are the fiscal sponsors for the breakfast community garden, and we got an aqua funds this year to move the community garden onto the grounds of Riverbend and Riverbend. Students helped build and develop the garden. And

316

00:55:12.270 --> 00:55:38.580

Town of Fairlee: it's it's community garden. So it's not just restricted to the people who have gardening beds there. But anybody who wants to come and enjoy and just sit and enjoy the spot and all the birds. The other thing that we do is we have planted trees on the library bed in Bradford. We purchased and planted pollinator plants and established a pollinator garden in this park.

317

00:55:40.960 --> 00:55:45.210

Town of Fairlee: And we've planted tree. Oh, and we also worked with

318

00:55:46.830 --> 00:55:55.509

Town of Fairlee: Harbor Day foundation, and we gave away like a hundred to locally once a month.

319

00:55:55.710 --> 00:56:25.020

Town of Fairlee: Would anybody else in the audience want to speak to Scott's point? Can I say one thing. Okay, yeah. The panelists come first. Okay, just just to echo that we are an advisory board. So everything we do, any recommendation we make has to ultimately get approved by the select board. So it's it's ultimately up to them. We say, this is what we're recommending, but you know it's in their hands. At that point. Including the town lands management plan. So we draft the town lands management plan, including

320

00:56:25.020 --> 00:56:51.179

Town of Fairlee: expert advice from our county forester. And then that goes to the select board for their approval, and then, you know, we can implement it. And then the second thing to mention is just that in Thetford. Most of our town owned forests have easements on them by Upper Valley Land Trust. So that's just another factor in there that sometimes the easements will determine what you are or are not allowed to on certain properties.

321

00:56:52.410 --> 00:57:00.460

Town of Fairlee: We're seeing cost purely state funded, or is this some of it come back to the path.

322

00:57:01.080 --> 00:57:08.710

Town of Fairlee: The management good meeting we don't get paid.

323

00:57:09.130 --> 00:57:14.389

Town of Fairlee: No, no town but the State. It's another

324

00:57:14.560 --> 00:57:21.299

Town of Fairlee: another town that the State has you have to. It's more work for the Conservation Commission.

325

00:57:23.173 --> 00:57:25.340

Town of Fairlee: The trailheads.

326

00:57:25.850 --> 00:57:36.179

Town of Fairlee: selective timber harvesting money that comes from selective timber harvesting goes into the friends of Rights Mountain Fund, and then we also do fundraising events.

327

00:57:36.430 --> 00:57:54.629

Town of Fairlee: the race to the top that happens in June. Those proceeds go into the friends of Rights Mountain Fund, and that's what paid for the parking lot paid for the gates paid for the repair for the lumber, for repairing footages across streams. But volunteers built the bridge

328

00:57:54.700 --> 00:58:12.290

Town of Fairlee: from the live free or die State, where we also support bureaucracy. The I guess, I said earlier, we have a budget of \$4,000 that comes from the town.

329

00:58:12.860 --> 00:58:18.000

Town of Fairlee: 2, 2,500 of the \$4,000 is used for water testing

330

00:58:18.540 --> 00:58:32.569

Town of Fairlee: on behalf of the town. To make sure the beaches don't have E. Coli problems. The remaining \$1,500 is for kiosk repair principally in on the beaches and a couple of the trailheads.

331

00:58:32.920 --> 00:58:39.119

Town of Fairlee: Most of the work that's done is not actually all. The work that's done is volunteer.

332

00:58:39.310 --> 00:58:42.829

Town of Fairlee: and most of the energy is in

333

00:58:42.840 --> 00:59:05.289

Town of Fairlee: running events that involves the towns. People live in the town getting access to privately owned conserved land in the town. So there's no cost to that. It's all volunteers. But the way to think about it is in the town of Orford, Orford is about 50 square miles. It's about 32,000

334

00:59:05.290 --> 00:59:13.650

Town of Fairlee: acres of the 32,000 acres. About 3,000 of them are in conservation

335

00:59:13.660 --> 00:59:27.280

Town of Fairlee: of the 3,000 acres in conservation, less than 50 is owned by the town that includes the Town Hall. And so it's all privately held land held in Approx by approximately 50 different parcels

336

00:59:27.310 --> 00:59:32.770

Town of Fairlee: between Upper Valley Land Trust. The Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests

337

00:59:33.370 --> 00:59:37.480

Town of Fairlee: had only easements that were negotiated with the private citizens.

338

00:59:38.310 --> 01:00:02.840

Town of Fairlee: So what we do is organize events that allow people in the town to get on this privately held property that's in conservation with with the Land Trust or couple of bits with New Hampshire fish and game. So we can. We can hike it. That's what we do. And you know, the conversations that take place in the community that gets built is immensely valuable.

339

01:00:03.010 --> 01:00:09.989

Town of Fairlee: But we don't have the authority to tell anybody to do anything with their land and all the conserved land in the town of

340

01:00:10.190 --> 01:00:18.379

Town of Fairlee: of Orford. The vast majority of it, the the direction of guidance regarding what one can do with the land is held by

341

01:00:18.707 --> 01:00:41.300

Town of Fairlee: New Hampshire Fish and Game Upper Valley Land Trust Society, protection of New Hampshire forests, and we have no involvement. What was negotiated in those. But we have tremendous impact on people in the town. Get the chance to go hike a good example. Sorry going on a little bit, but Cottonstone Mountain, which everyone here probably is familiar with, is right across the river, up Route 10

342

01:00:41.300 --> 01:00:57.310

Town of Fairlee: is owned by the family, and we organized a big hike to get up on the property, which otherwise you would never get to in the fall, and it looked fabulous out, and we had like 40 people up there and thank you to Heidi Wilson for letting us get on the property last October.

343

01:00:57.650 --> 01:01:07.309

Town of Fairlee: Oh, you're that's fantastic. You're across the river. We have a significant increase coming up.

344

01:01:07.728 --> 01:01:33.359

Town of Fairlee: We. We have a kind of a significant property tax increase coming down the line over here across this side of the river. I'm just asking normal questions that probably a lot of people that maybe not even here tonight need to understand about what's going on. So where is the cost factor? I'm just saying, when you have a lot of other people administering help

345

01:01:33.640 --> 01:01:45.559

Town of Fairlee: that costs money. And I think this woman is very patient.

346

01:01:45.780 --> 01:01:54.790

Town of Fairlee: Thank you, Scott, and respectfully disagree with you. But that's the the great thing about public discourse.

347

01:01:55.436 --> 01:02:04.383

Town of Fairlee: Actually probably an 8th generation, although I invite new Vermonters as well. To- to have opinions of.

348

01:02:04.980 --> 01:02:33.809

Town of Fairlee: My point is that I think I believe that just as historic is long history of stewardship in in this State, and I think that the opportunity that the Conservation Commission would provide is the community helping to steward the land. And so, you know, I grew up a farm that includes working lands.

349

01:02:33.930 --> 01:02:55.319

Town of Fairlee: So I'm really excited. And you know, I I didn't realize as a kid what a conservation commission was. But then, you know, coming back here, why don't we have one? So I'm super excited that you all are here and and doing this so just wanted to present that, and I do want to ask one question, which is

350

01:02:55.836 --> 01:03:13.039

Town of Fairlee: I was a volunteer in South Burlington when I mentioned the Admin, was living in the area. They had the Natural Resource Committee, right? So they were doing some of the same kind of work as a conservation commission. But they didn't have the same legal.

351

01:03:13.680 --> 01:03:31.280

Town of Fairlee: and I think that also means they didn't have the same opportunity to get grants for state funding. So I think this question of funding is actually the opportunity to say, Oh, we need to like, take more water samples of the lake in different parts of the lake, for example.

352

01:03:32.650 --> 01:03:40.900

Town of Fairlee: I'm not just talking about regulation, but the opportunity for us to then actually get awesome.

353

01:03:41.670 --> 01:03:45.389

Town of Fairlee: Someone wants to talk about that.

354

01:03:45.650 --> 01:03:47.330

Town of Fairlee: How many questions

355

01:03:47.420 --> 01:04:00.943

Town of Fairlee: can I just ask that question. Oh, oh, please, I didn't realize you pertaining to the immediate question. Go ahead.

Yes, the town of South Burlington has a natural resources committee. A committee is A is an ad hoc

356

01:04:01.290 --> 01:04:26.170

Town of Fairlee: a group appointed by the select board, and it only exists as long as it has approval to move forward by the select board. You're correct. The committee doesn't carry the same legal protections, or I shouldn't say protections, but the same enabling language that a Conservation Commission does. So you're correct. They can't have their own conservation fund. They can't receive gifts

357

01:04:26.170 --> 01:04:29.559

Town of Fairlee: or administer the the fund.

358

01:04:30.110 --> 01:04:39.800

Town of Fairlee: Thank you. Okay, speak to that standpoint.

359

01:04:40.297 --> 01:04:50.879

Town of Fairlee: In the 4 years or 3 years that I am chair of the Co. Chair and chair. The Conservation Commission has gotten grants for about

360

01:04:50.950 --> 01:05:08.779

Town of Fairlee: \$22,000 that came into the town to help pay for so Jesse's work for planting for a bunch of things, and I know that a lot of the other inventories that we've done is again through grants

361

01:05:08.780 --> 01:05:22.809

Town of Fairlee: that volunteers wrote that the town wouldn't have time to do. You know, with their extra bodies that have extra energy to make. You know the time to recognize grants, and all of those grants have to be approved by the select board, so we can't

362

01:05:22.810 --> 01:05:29.499

Town of Fairlee: go out and try to do something without their approval. But it's just bringing in extra money to the tank

363

01:05:31.000 --> 01:05:31.790

Town of Fairlee: you're in.

364

01:05:32.410 --> 01:05:35.030

Town of Fairlee: Oh, June! And then right

365

01:05:38.381 --> 01:05:48.490

Town of Fairlee: think, Jen just answered this one person's question. Lucy Swartz asks, is there State or Federal funding available? And that was.

366

01:05:49.780 --> 01:05:54.999

Town of Fairlee: I think, we answered, that there are grants available from the State.

367

01:05:55.290 --> 01:05:57.690

Town of Fairlee: Anyone wants to think more about that.

368

01:05:58.220 --> 01:06:07.479

Town of Fairlee: Well, in other words, Jen, the Conservation Commission exists. It wouldn't involve those \$22,000. Is that right? No, yes.

369

01:06:07.870 --> 01:06:18.719

Town of Fairlee: okay. Here's the second question, do these other towns have recreation councils or other boards that are separate from their Conservation Commission that they work with.

370

01:06:18.850 --> 01:06:21.040

Town of Fairlee: That question is probably.

371

01:06:24.308 --> 01:06:30.290

Town of Fairlee: Oh, question, do you have recreation committees? Or

372

01:06:30.650 --> 01:06:39.489

Town of Fairlee: we have. We do have a recreation committee. We have a trails committee, and those are both separate from the Conservation Commission.

373

01:06:41.056 --> 01:06:52.249

Town of Fairlee: We have a parks and playground committee that manages the playing fields and the beach sites in town. We don't have a Trails committee. We do that work

374

01:06:54.140 --> 01:06:59.890

Town of Fairlee: Arts and Recreation Commission that manages the public works.

375

01:07:00.130 --> 01:07:02.239

Town of Fairlee: and there's also bread for me.

376

01:07:02.990 --> 01:07:09.630

Town of Fairlee: which is a volunteer organization, its parents organizing teams for their kids.

377

01:07:11.840 --> 01:07:12.520

Town of Fairlee: Beautiful.

378

01:07:12.990 --> 01:07:16.160

Town of Fairlee: Yeah, thank you.

379

01:07:22.280 --> 01:07:35.920

Town of Fairlee: So my name is. And my question is, if the voters were to approve Conservation Commission. What would happen next with this Board? How would they decide what that Conservation Commission gets to do?

380

01:07:36.860 --> 01:07:37.620

Town of Fairlee: Shit?

381

01:07:37.760 --> 01:07:40.550

Town of Fairlee: There's some blackboard members in the audience actually.

382

01:07:42.160 --> 01:07:49.169

Town of Fairlee: did any of these slide board members like to answer that question sitting on their hands.

383

01:07:51.310 --> 01:08:02.699

Town of Fairlee: think they're waiting for the will of the people to be, you know, from the forest work.

384

01:08:04.710 --> 01:08:12.080

Town of Fairlee: I think the best way to answer that question is that

it's extremely important at the threes.

385

01:08:12.400 --> 01:08:22.720

Town of Fairlee: Responsibilities and hours of the Conservation Commission be clearly spelled out before moving forward.

386

01:08:26.279 --> 01:08:31.180

Town of Fairlee: Oh, yeah, hey, you have further questions here.

387

01:08:39.338 --> 01:08:46.521

Town of Fairlee: Got a question for the board here, because in fairly believe we have a.

388

01:08:47.100 --> 01:08:51.169

Town of Fairlee: We call that in the Greenhouse Day Committee we have a

389

01:08:51.410 --> 01:08:57.849

Town of Fairlee: someone that's in charge of the lake looks after the lake we have. Someone looks after the forest and whatnot. I'm just wondering.

390

01:08:58.210 --> 01:09:23.640

Town of Fairlee: what do you do? These other towns have all that stuff looking out for everything? Or does this kind of oversee everything? Because sometimes we notice in small towns, and people don't play together very well is what happens. I was just wondering how you guys have dealt with. Do you have like a lake commission that's looking out for the lake in whatever gets in a feud with someone else from the some other commission is.

391

01:09:23.700 --> 01:09:33.729

Town of Fairlee: you know, whatever step enough overstepping someone's bounds or someone's cut some trees or something out of shape. I'm just wondering if you guys have a bunch of missions

392

01:09:34.340 --> 01:09:50.819

Town of Fairlee: prior to setting up as we do in fairly, because I did. Yeah, just it's just a question here to see leading up to it, because sometimes small towns don't play together. Well, when we get different boards. So you know, just trying to see how you guys may have dealt

393

01:09:51.160 --> 01:10:00.119

Town of Fairlee: if I can oil the wheel here. If one thing we all share West Fair Lake that see is Lake Fairlease.

394

01:10:00.280 --> 01:10:06.990

Town of Fairlee: There is a Lake barely association, and I'm wondering, is this a member of the Association?

395

01:10:07.510 --> 01:10:08.450

Town of Fairlee: Comments

396

01:10:17.330 --> 01:10:21.040

Town of Fairlee: Tom, or my wife is on the board with a fairly associate.

397

01:10:21.160 --> 01:10:22.889

Town of Fairlee: Premium measures.

398

01:10:23.746 --> 01:10:29.020

Town of Fairlee: So black friend Association. Is not a slip.

399

01:10:29.476 --> 01:10:48.993

Town of Fairlee: You know. It's an independent organization. And we work with all 3 towns, and we played really well with the Conservation Commission from West barely, and from Depford, and I think we played really well with one from. I see no reason why we do not work closely with the Treasure Island Committee as well. And

400

01:10:49.330 --> 01:11:11.739

Town of Fairlee: we oversee and rear program at the at the boat landing to help keep invasive, you know, to look for invasives and and and whatnot. We also apply for grants from the State, and do all the foil remediation work which has been you know, both

401

01:11:11.780 --> 01:11:26.220

Town of Fairlee: chemical work that we've done our side work over time, and and also diver pulling work. So in many respects we're a conservation commission. I guess you could say that that really is our

402

01:11:26.910 --> 01:11:44.659

Town of Fairlee: are charter is to, you know, preserve the natural garden of the lake and water. Is anybody. Here's 2 foundations, I think, that they might be able to.

403

01:11:45.590 --> 01:11:49.300

Town of Fairlee: And then could you just grab that, please oops.

404

01:11:50.930 --> 01:11:57.030

Town of Fairlee: Yeah. So just by way of information, we do have 2 different leg associations.

405

01:11:57.370 --> 01:11:58.880

Town of Fairlee: One is

406

01:12:00.830 --> 01:12:15.609

Town of Fairlee: bordering 3 towns, transporting 3 towns, and then Lake Maury has 2 associations, and that's entirely fairly so. I do think that's 1 question that could probably be answered by someone there if they wanted to

407

01:12:15.960 --> 01:12:17.879

Town of Fairlee: anybody want to answer that question.

408

01:12:18.060 --> 01:12:19.000

Town of Fairlee: Don't worry.

409

01:12:19.180 --> 01:12:21.230

Town of Fairlee: Okay, Doug. I can speak

410

01:12:22.870 --> 01:12:45.700

Town of Fairlee: just to answer the question about collaboration. So I'm not. I have only been on the Commission for 5 years or so. So I can't speak to before then. But we have really great relationships with all of our other committees. And you know, sometimes those relationships take time. And sometimes there's, you know, they're not always perfect. But I think that, like we're all kind of.

411

01:12:45.700 --> 01:13:01.139

Town of Fairlee: we're all serving as volunteers. We all care about our town, and we all want to be able to enjoy and recreate in our town

and and you know, we all might have slightly different visions of how to get there. But I think there's this mutual trust that, like

412

01:13:01.140 --> 01:13:12.709

Town of Fairlee: we are, all have good intentions to move toward the town. We want to see that we want to live in. And so we've had a really great great success with those building those relationships.

413

01:13:13.940 --> 01:13:17.886

Town of Fairlee: A similar experience. Your question, guys, is real

414

01:13:18.720 --> 01:13:43.820

Town of Fairlee: good one in Orford. There's 4 bodies of water Indian Pond, Upper Pond, lower bicker pond Jacobs Brook. We do all the water testing, for, you know, during every week during the summer for E. Coli and other bacteria we coordinate with the parks and playgrounds. They do lifeguards, swimming lessons, activities, education.

415

01:13:43.840 --> 01:13:53.460

Town of Fairlee: We're in charge of hygiene and and we have good working relationships. We always make sure the testing gets done so they can run their programs the following week.

416

01:13:55.730 --> 01:14:20.030

Town of Fairlee: I can also speak as a newer Vermonter and newer Conservation commission member over the past 2 and a half years or so. You know I never. My experiences in collaboration are collaboration is necessary and, like integral for this to work well. And the trust that exists in the town, you know.

417

01:14:20.080 --> 01:14:43.940

Town of Fairlee: has existed in many ways. Whether or not there's a Conservation commission, carrying these things out or not, and so having the Conservation Commission and giving residents the opportunity to use their energy and their passion for projects and education within the town, much of which is outside of the town forest, I think, has been shown to me, and then I know that I've seen with the, you know.

418

01:14:44.150 --> 01:15:07.779

Town of Fairlee: Again, there is no power and authority to be doing things within West fairly. It all goes to the Select board. And our recommendations are there, but you know it's it. There's no ulterior

motives by the Conservation Commission coming in to to do things. It's just about carrying out what we think the residents are are caring about and making sure that's happening.

419

01:15:08.630 --> 01:15:09.540

Town of Fairlee: Thank you.

420

01:15:10.920 --> 01:15:13.549

Town of Fairlee: Any other questions. Okay, Miranda.

421

01:15:17.720 --> 01:15:23.803

Town of Fairlee: Hi, Maureen, actually, I have 2 questions. My 1st question is,

422

01:15:24.830 --> 01:15:30.379

Town of Fairlee: what are the disadvantages of having a conservation commission? They're not. There's having some.

423

01:15:30.890 --> 01:15:33.640

Town of Fairlee: And my next question is,

424

01:15:34.940 --> 01:15:42.949

Town of Fairlee: volunteers. How do you get them. I mean, it's hard enough to get people to volunteer to be, you know, on record. How do you?

425

01:15:51.820 --> 01:15:53.549

Town of Fairlee: You're one of the 1st students. Yeah.

426

01:15:56.280 --> 01:16:20.900

Town of Fairlee: I don't see a lot of disadvantages to a conservation commission in my experience across the State, but I think your second question, maybe, is one of the disadvantages right just by having another board. There are more seats to be filled, and there are more volunteers needed, and so perhaps, that would could be thought of as a disadvantage.

427

01:16:20.960 --> 01:16:45.210

Town of Fairlee: In my experience the Conservation Commission attracts a different set of volunteers that might step up for other commissions, and so you could also think of it as an untapped, an

untapped interest, where people will step up that haven't stepped up for your other commissions. But I you know that's the problem in in our form

428

01:16:45.210 --> 01:17:09.410

Town of Fairlee: of governance across the State is that everything relies on volunteers. Vermont is run by volunteers. Everything we do in the vast majority of our towns only happens because of volunteer effort. And so I think fire departments and all sorts of organizations are figuring out. How do we tap into more volunteerism. And how do we put that forward?

429

01:17:09.821 --> 01:17:13.868

Town of Fairlee: And if I had an answer to that I'd be a wealthy man.

430

01:17:14.340 --> 01:17:15.290

Town of Fairlee: Alright

431

01:17:15.881 --> 01:17:41.190

Town of Fairlee: we have had. I don't want to say surprising, but we've had a lot of success recruiting volunteers. We have so many volunteers that want to do stuff and not enough stuff for them to do so. It is it is possible to tap into community members who are really excited to help with all sorts of different projects. Whether that's, you know, the Salamander Crossing, whether that's helping, you know.

432

01:17:41.190 --> 01:17:55.029

Town of Fairlee: Clean up brush on the side of, you know, a trail like there's just there's so many very small discrete tasks that volunteers can do and feel like they've contributed tangibly to. So it is. It is possible.

433

01:17:56.576 --> 01:18:01.403

Town of Fairlee: Ditto on it. It's a total volunteer based program.

434

01:18:02.050 --> 01:18:06.409

Town of Fairlee: the so the strategy is it better be fun?

435

01:18:06.530 --> 01:18:16.210

Town of Fairlee: Pulling knotweed is not fun. You know, headland hiking in 10 degree weather under under full moon can be lots of fun.

436

01:18:16.250 --> 01:18:37.300

Town of Fairlee: particularly if you have some of your volunteers. Bring chocolate chip cookies for everything like that, and I think you can make it fun. And you've focused on engagement. Then you can create the pool of people who suddenly decide it is fun to go pull that weed. The only thing I'd add is.

437

01:18:37.340 --> 01:18:49.110

Town of Fairlee: we've been working really hard to not let it be just round up the usual suspects, and going out of a way to invite people to participate who are like new to the town don't know anybody.

438

01:18:49.400 --> 01:18:53.750

Town of Fairlee: so it's a little bit welcome wagonish.

439

01:18:53.880 --> 01:19:02.779

Town of Fairlee: because everyone's trying to connect and get involved. And we're trying to create a vehicle to let that happen. But the chocolate chip cookies help with that, too.

440

01:19:03.540 --> 01:19:14.920

Town of Fairlee: Our last called for us to have a 9 Member Conservation Commission. And right now we have 2 vacancies, but I think the fund, the F word fund

441

01:19:15.030 --> 01:19:30.893

Town of Fairlee: is is important part of it. And for example, one of the runners who did participate in the devil said alter run, also became the volunteer carpenter that led everybody to replace the footprints and then across the stream.

442

01:19:32.510 --> 01:19:36.970

Town of Fairlee: we're going to be this coming month. We're gonna participate in the backyard group.

443

01:19:37.380 --> 01:19:43.849

Town of Fairlee: and people who are really introverting. They want to join Cultivation Commission, which is.

444

01:19:44.890 --> 01:19:48.907

Town of Fairlee: And unfortunately, we don't have any ways around.

445

01:19:50.560 --> 01:20:00.640

Town of Fairlee: Okay, we have any other questions. Yes, yeah, okay.

446

01:20:00.810 --> 01:20:05.678

Town of Fairlee: definitely right up there. Right there.

447

01:20:07.445 --> 01:20:09.110

Town of Fairlee: Thank you, Peter.

448

01:20:12.630 --> 01:20:13.426

Town of Fairlee: Yeah.

449

01:20:18.160 --> 01:20:27.339

Town of Fairlee: when you signed it. What you cited, what contribution commissions may do. We haven't spoken.

450

01:20:29.520 --> 01:20:35.179

Town of Fairlee: And I think if I understand, I'd like to confirm. I understand.

451

01:20:38.560 --> 01:20:46.658

Town of Fairlee: Can you? Can you speak to how they're treated in terms of the same log in a different chapter.

452

01:20:47.670 --> 01:20:52.535

Town of Fairlee: Yeah, that actually would be a good segue into what was going to be the

453

01:20:53.100 --> 01:20:56.749

Town of Fairlee: last time we tapped into Jen's expertise.

454

01:21:00.600 --> 01:21:05.549

Town of Fairlee: That we we we warned him that we'd like to ask them to observe us

455

01:21:05.800 --> 01:21:09.669

Town of Fairlee: and say, What do you see out here? From what prompts?

456

01:21:10.220 --> 01:21:14.159

Town of Fairlee: What are we made of where we headed on this? And then

457

01:21:14.260 --> 01:21:23.410

Town of Fairlee: where do we go from here? And I'm gonna turn it back to you all to have that discussion after Jen's gives us a an observation. He's observed. How many

458

01:21:24.640 --> 01:21:41.540

Town of Fairlee: you know hundreds of conservation commissions in Vermont, and how do they get formed? And what does it take to get that? What you're asking, or what the loss? Okay.

459

01:21:41.630 --> 01:22:11.549

Town of Fairlee: I believe, for enabling a Conservation Commission. The 1st is, is by a direct vote of the Select board. The second is through petition by the community. And I'm a little foggy on the second route but even without a vote. By the select board. I believe the town you could collect signatures and petition to have it go up for a town wide vote.

460

01:22:11.550 --> 01:22:14.241

Town of Fairlee: because we're an uncharted town.

461

01:22:15.420 --> 01:22:18.229

Town of Fairlee: The only way for us to form

462

01:22:18.370 --> 01:22:27.819

Town of Fairlee: a Conservation commission is by petition to the select Board, no matter how it's created.

463

01:22:28.150 --> 01:22:31.840

Town of Fairlee: Whiteboard points or not.

464

01:22:32.140 --> 01:22:45.979

Town of Fairlee: I am not a lawyer, and I am not going to speak to this because because I don't. Wanna I don't want to overstep my balance interpreting it, but I believe

465

01:22:46.150 --> 01:23:05.759

Town of Fairlee: could absolutely vote on it. Whether you're a chartered or uncharted town, absolutely put up a commission. So, in terms of the legality of the second route I won't speak. Yes, yes.

466

01:23:05.840 --> 01:23:29.949

Town of Fairlee: Yeah. So then, in terms of of you know, observations just moving forward, I'll just say that a lot of the what I've heard in terms of some of the concerns here is about how a potential commission could fit in with the existing human landscape of other commissions and their their responsibilities.

467

01:23:30.318 --> 01:23:38.099

Town of Fairlee: And I think a lot of that gets worked out by the select Board in terms of of deciding what the mission is.

468

01:23:38.590 --> 01:24:03.430

Town of Fairlee: So the act of putting up a Conservation Commission doesn't put any sideboards on jurisdiction in terms of certain entities or certain natural resources that would really be determined by the select board, and how you move forward. So I do think there is a lot of room here in terms of figuring

469

01:24:03.430 --> 01:24:27.699

Town of Fairlee: how a commission, how you could get the best of a new set of volunteers. I was really struck by the breadth and depth of experience on this group, and just how many things are going on in your neighboring towns because of the acts of these volunteers.

470

01:24:28.076 --> 01:24:55.910

Town of Fairlee: And that's pretty exciting stuff, and that brings people to your town, and that makes your town more vibrant. It makes young families want to be in your town. It makes old families proud of their town. There's a lot of good to come out of that excitement and that activity and that celebration. So we talked about. I heard fun. I heard celebration. I think there's a lot here that that could make you all proud.

471

01:24:56.770 --> 01:25:03.670

Town of Fairlee: Thank you. If I could just ask one of the select Board members to clarify efficient.

472

01:25:04.630 --> 01:25:10.360

Town of Fairlee: put it on by the residents meeting either inspect

473

01:25:10.620 --> 01:25:19.510

Town of Fairlee: regular town meeting or in the Select Board, independently. Just create the Conservation commission group one or 2 separate.

474

01:25:21.059 --> 01:25:32.259

Town of Fairlee: Okay? So it's a majority of the select work. And

475

01:25:32.600 --> 01:25:35.529

Town of Fairlee: okay, I think it's important for us to understand the process.

476

01:25:36.560 --> 01:25:48.030

Town of Fairlee: So there is some misunderstanding, because this Board has had conversations and just voted in February last year that we agreed with the idea of a Conservation Commission.

477

01:25:48.200 --> 01:25:59.640

Town of Fairlee: It's also been brought to voters down on 2 occasions and conversations on 2 other occasions. Not oh.

478

01:26:00.040 --> 01:26:25.489

Town of Fairlee: it's not that we're opposed, so I think it's setting parameters fairly is an unusual town. It's very progressive. It has a commission appointed by the site board that takes care of all the waterfalls are a lot more robust than the towns around us. We have limitations in terms of that. And we basically have said.

479

01:26:26.736 --> 01:26:41.720

Town of Fairlee: think it's also one that's been in front of boards a couple of times, and probably

480

01:26:42.293 --> 01:26:53.349

Town of Fairlee: probably would go in front of the voters, because you say that it's probably will go in front of the voters because it has to, or because you'd like to make sure it's put back by the town.

481

01:26:54.830 --> 01:27:05.239

Town of Fairlee: Yeah. And this conversation, I think there has to be an understanding how much is currently on the plate you've got.

482

01:27:05.590 --> 01:27:15.340

Town of Fairlee: you know, huge amount of development that's gonna take place in the next 2 or 3 years in the village center working with the State

483

01:27:15.600 --> 01:27:30.390

Town of Fairlee: village designation that will change this the way the village is allowed to grow. There are also conversations that are referred to the email and where that's going.

484

01:27:31.090 --> 01:27:38.360

Town of Fairlee: So

485

01:27:47.470 --> 01:27:55.273

Town of Fairlee: go up to chat voted on this created, we'd be obliged to nominate members.

486

01:27:57.120 --> 01:28:10.220

Town of Fairlee: Yes, so obviously, I understand what you're saying, we've got a pretty busy schedule.

487

01:28:10.450 --> 01:28:16.840

Town of Fairlee: and I just wanna make it clear. What's the procedure for authorizing creating a

488

01:28:17.210 --> 01:28:19.679

Town of Fairlee: conservation commission in the town of Fairfield?

489

01:28:20.996 --> 01:28:40.359

Town of Fairlee: Think I'm hearing could happen just for the board. Go to the select board, and then you proceed to recruit people, you know. And then you're right. What's their charge. You know what?

490

01:28:42.790 --> 01:28:47.250

Town of Fairlee: Thank you. Dude, hey?

491

01:28:48.080 --> 01:29:05.690

Town of Fairlee: I have 2 comments. I'm sorry. And Stevens, I'm part of the West Valley Conservation Commission. I have 2 comments just

over the whole meeting. Some things I wanted to say. One of the questions was, How do we all get along together?

492

01:29:05.840 --> 01:29:10.820

Town of Fairlee: And I think that since the

493

01:29:11.030 --> 01:29:25.739

Town of Fairlee: Conservation division power, the people who seek power are not in it. And instead, it's a type of people that just get along together, that we all have, as was said.

494

01:29:25.850 --> 01:29:28.729

Town of Fairlee: a a mission that we all agree with.

495

01:29:29.010 --> 01:29:35.460

Town of Fairlee: Everybody wants to, for instance, remove and invasives and stuff like that. So we get along with them.

496

01:29:35.750 --> 01:29:44.099

Town of Fairlee: That's just the way it is. Another comment that my son made to me today. It was advisory. If you want to recruit people.

497

01:29:44.110 --> 01:30:06.350

Town of Fairlee: and nobody likes meetings, but especially young people with children with small children. They can't. It's a real tax to go off on a Tuesday night, or whenever, and go to a meeting, and one should try and make the remote electronic stuff work for your meeting.

498

01:30:06.760 --> 01:30:11.799

Town of Fairlee: because then no, if your young people will be willing to join.

499

01:30:15.350 --> 01:30:20.100

Town of Fairlee: hey? One went to the audience here to

500

01:30:21.490 --> 01:30:25.209

Town of Fairlee: give us some feedback in 2 ways. About.

501

01:30:25.430 --> 01:30:30.350

Town of Fairlee: Where do we go from? Here? One. You all received cards, I believe. Is that right? That you came in

502

01:30:30.980 --> 01:30:32.459

Town of Fairlee: receiving cards?

503

01:30:32.900 --> 01:30:39.270

Town of Fairlee: The pencils galore there, as you need. Please answer the 5 questions if you wish

504

01:30:39.380 --> 01:30:41.450

Town of Fairlee: and leave them here. That will be listed.

505

01:30:41.740 --> 01:30:46.289

Town of Fairlee: Thank you. Give us some guidance on what happens.

506

01:30:47.370 --> 01:31:03.709

Town of Fairlee: Where to where to take this next? Again, we're just an ad hoc committee, and we will dissolve when it seems like it's necessary to. But if there's enough that we have questions that need further answering, we would take it there. So please be sure to

507

01:31:03.870 --> 01:31:05.340

Town of Fairlee: go up and sorry.

508

01:31:05.920 --> 01:31:18.029

Town of Fairlee: Drop it as you go back. But the other question is, does anybody else want to continue the discussion about, where do we go from here? This may be a time for us to talk to one another, if you will, with the remaining minutes. I'd like

509

01:31:18.200 --> 01:31:21.182

Town of Fairlee: wrap this up in 10 min.

510

01:31:29.470 --> 01:31:41.330

Town of Fairlee: The Conservation Commission may this and that could I strongly recommend when you're oh.

511

01:31:42.020 --> 01:32:00.399

Town of Fairlee: dark skies in the 1. 1 of your natural resources is a

dark, starry sky, and when you light up your yard like midtown Manhattan, and you talk with nature. You destroy all wildlife, driven them away, and

512

01:32:00.700 --> 01:32:03.120

Town of Fairlee: and you upset everybody's cycle.

513

01:32:03.900 --> 01:32:21.359

Town of Fairlee: But if you can see the Milky Way, those stars are the same as they were 3,000 years ago, and you still have the connection with all humanity. So I would strongly suggest your natural resources include dark skies. There's numerous

514

01:32:21.700 --> 01:32:24.290

Town of Fairlee: medical references and papers.

515

01:32:25.210 --> 01:32:30.700

Town of Fairlee: I agree, okay, okay.

516

01:32:30.890 --> 01:32:39.410

Town of Fairlee: unless there's further questions, I just wanna make sure that we thank the right people. All these people on the panel are really.

517

01:32:44.070 --> 01:32:50.400

Town of Fairlee: we appreciate it, and the knowledge, as I think, you know, got us a lot to think about as we go home.

518

01:32:50.858 --> 01:33:11.859

Town of Fairlee: I also want to thank Ryan Lockwood, who helped get us set up on this and told us about the owl there. The nice poster here was designed by Eric Brooks, who's a skilled designer, who's my neighbor, and used to be my boss? And then, of course, to everybody on the ad hoc committee. We want to say, Thank you. And it's been a pleasure

519

01:33:12.010 --> 01:33:15.639

Town of Fairlee: taking it this far. Anybody else actually need a few things.

520

01:33:16.890 --> 01:33:21.540

Town of Fairlee: Okay? If so, and unless you have other questions. You want to continue the discussion.

521

01:33:21.640 --> 01:33:23.189

Town of Fairlee: Then thank you for calling.

522

01:33:24.300 --> 01:33:25.370

Town of Fairlee: Okay.

523

01:33:27.634 --> 01:33:35.679

Town of Fairlee: What a tremendous array of things you all spoke to! That was really exciting.