

Minutes
Barre City Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
January 15, 2026

Committee Members in attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Janette Shaffer (5:30-6:14) Jim Deshler, Susan McDowell, Greg Rouleau, Emily Hoffman.

Others: Amanda Gustin, Shane (guest)

1. Call to Order: 5:31 pm.

2. Adjustments to Agenda: Reminder to Committee Members to track volunteer hours (Chris). Request from Greg to move Snobee update forward.

3. Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes: November 20, 2025: Motion-Janette. Second-Greg. All in favor.

Guest Introduction: Shane - City resident that uses the Cow Pasture and would like to become involved in supporting the Committee

ERSA Grant Subcommittee Updates:

2026 Trail Project. Chris and Jim met with Zac (Apex Trailworks) on-site to discuss trail improvements at the stream crossing by the spring. Building a bridge upstream of the current trail crossing where there's a narrow expanse and closure of the existing trail across the stream was determined to be the safest and most environmentally acceptable option. An approximate 200' reroute of the existing trail to both bridge approaches would be required. The existing trail on the east side of the stream will be closed and the trail on the west side of the stream will remain open as a spur trail to allow access to the stream. The Sub-Committee met and discussed trail project options to utilize the remaining ERSA Grant Funds (\$3,491) and decided to bring the project described to the full Committee for approval.

The full Committee supported the Project as described with the understanding that a significant amount of the remaining Semprebon funds will be used to supplement the ERSA balance. The Committee supported soliciting a local lumber yard for a donation of materials. Amanda will consult with the City Manager for approval and protocol for a material donation.

Motion- Susan. Proceed with sub-committee recommendation to reroute the trail at the river crossing as recommended and utilize Semprebon funds to supplement the ERSA funds. Second- Greg. All in favor-Motion passes.

Upcoming Training and Event:

German Forestry: Insights & Lessons. February 28, 2026 10:30-1:00. Forestry Presentation at Aldrich Library sponsored by: Vermont Dept. Of Forest Parks and Recreation and Co-sponsored by Barre Town Recreation Board and the Barre City Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee. The Committee will post a sign on our kiosk and Facebook page and provide trail maps for the event.

Central VT Trail Manager Training. January 28 -5:00 – 7:30. Jim Deschler will be attending.

Updates and Discussions:

Snobees- Minor pruning has been completed. The City donated \$500 to the Snobees to have the meadows brush-hogged. Greg requested that the City approve the annual land use agreement in perpetuity or until revoked. The agreement included the terms and conditions attachment last revised November 2021. Trail names are outdated on this document.

Conservation and Access Advisory Group – None

Invasive Plan Control. A pamphlet highlighting winged euonymus, buckthorn and barberry is being created to educate the public on invasive plants in the Cow Pasture.

Social Media. Upcoming posts will highlight the Cow Pasture trail network on TrailFinder and Aldrich Library event. Emily requests photos and other information of interest.

City Support: Chris will draft a letter with a checklist for Committee input and approval to request City support.

4. Adjourn Motion to adjourn: 6:23 Greg. Second-