

Minutes Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
Thursday June 2, 2022
5:30-6:30 P.M.

In attendance: Chris Russo -Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deschler, Janette Shaffer, Fabienne Pattison, Marc Cote (5:30 – 6:30).

Call to order: 5:36 p.m.

Adjustments to Agenda: Barre City Board and Committee Strategic Planning Input Form. Chris noted that she completed and submitted the form. The completed Form was emailed to the Committee.

Bird Boxes- Were not maintained this year by Community Volunteer. Fab volunteered to clean the boxes in the fall and early spring.

NOTE: Approval of March 17th Meeting Minutes inadvertently not included in the Agenda. Approval needed at the July Meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Updates:

- Central Vermont Carrier Center Accomplishment- Three days of onsite work at the intersection of M-2 and C-1. Burning bush and Buckthorn were removed. Stephanie created a laminated sheet on Invasives that would be useful to obtain- follow-up needed. All agreed that future partnering with Steph and the Carrier Center was beneficial to all and should be continued. Student Mentors for invasive education was suggested. Janette asked if funds were available to purchase T-Shirts as incentives for the students. Semprebon-Cow Pasture Allocation Funds could potentially be used for this purpose if approved by the Committee and City.
- ERSA Grant status- Grant Agreement has not been received by the City. The Agreement needs to be reviewed by the City and presented to Council for final approval prior to any work being initiated. Motion by Chris- Allow the ERSA Sub-Committee to proceed with small decisions that align with the Grant Application without Committee discussion. Seconded- Janette. All in favor- Motion passes.
- Green-up Day- 4 Committee Members and 2 Community members participated in trail maintenance, downed tree removal, and abandoned camp removal along RT 14. Recommendations for next year would be to return to inviting the public.

2. **Committee Membership & City Staff Representation:** Existing document: Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee Member Recruitment and Expectations (Revision 1: March 18, 2021). Janette felt this document listing expectations combined with a Pasture walk with a Committee Member was helpful when she was considering joining the Committee. As per conversation with Jody Norway, the City's effort to recruit new members to City Committees had not resulted in an application for the Cow Pasture Committee as of late May. Deadline was early June. Chris will ask Steve Mackenzie for a recommendation on City Staff Representation after his retirement and will request the City Policy on Committee Membership.

3. **City Work Update:** Chris discussed with Bill Ahearn in-kind ERSA Grant work (installation of a functioning gate at the RT 14 entrance and opening of the M-4 and C-5 trail) and removal of the fenced enclosure (which is not part of the ERSA in-kind work Grant). Chris contacted the ERSA Grant Administrator to find out if in-kind work can be initiated prior to the FPR receiving a signed ERSA Grant agreement. No response as of 6-9-2022. Follow-up on brush-hogging of the upper meadow is needed- Chris will pursue. Management Plan requires brush hogging in late summer every 2-3 years. Will be 4 years since the meadow was brush-hogged this fall.

4. **Committee Summer Initiative Ideas:**

- Trail Walks – Invite Public and Council Members. Fab will propose a recommendation at the July Meeting.
- Invasive Removal- Youth Volunteers June 25th- Enough Ministries. Steve Mackenzie was contacted and asked for opportunities for youth volunteers. Chris volunteered to work with a

group if there is interest in invasive work (Burning bush above RT 14.) As of June 9th, Chris has not been contacted.

5. **VAST Connector Trail-** Tim requested this Agenda item so that the Committee could be pro-active in discussing requests for connector trail maintenance work that may be forth coming from the Sno-Bees. Marc (also a Sno-Bee Member) adjourned from the Meeting at 6:30 and was unable to participate in the discussion. Agenda item tabled until July Meeting. Marc will be asked to come to the July 21st Meeting with a list of any connector trail maintenance work the Sno-Bees would like to request this coming season.
6. Meeting adjourned: 7 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings 2022
• July 21 • September 15 • November 17