

Minutes Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee

Thursday July 15, 2021

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Cow Pasture Entrance- Maplewood Avenue.

Attendees

Committee members: Fabienne Pattison, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deschler, Chris Fraysier, Janette Shaffer, Carl Hilton VanOsdall, and Chris Frayer

Primary Staff: Steve MacKenzie

Call to order at 5:26 p.m.

Adjustments to Agenda – no adjustments were made to the agenda

Approval of Minutes (5-20-2021) - Tim motioned and Janette seconded, all voted to approve the minutes

Agenda Items:

Steve M. gave an update on the in-person requirement post COVID.

The Communication Agreement & Mission Statement was read by Janette.

Updates:

Virtual Outing- Fab reported that there is nothing changed since the last meeting. A discussion of the QR code that leads to a map of the Cow Pasture and next steps regarding connecting the QR code to the City's Cow Pasture webpage.

Steve will follow up on the web page e-mail / staff contact discrepancies. Jim and Fab will update coordinates on the map.

AARP Grant/Trail Assessment- Chris reported that the grant was not awarded.

Brush-hogging- Steve is going to work to get the brush-hogging done this season. Discussion of the question of how to manage known where bittersweet is growing. Tim will follow up to see about best practice in managing this invasive and report back to the committee.

New Agenda Items:

State of Vermont Forest Parks and Recreation (FPR) Trails Grant- Chris reported that staff within the Agency of Natural Resources are familiar with the property. We need to start the application 6 months before the due date. The traditional Recreational Trails grants are on the back burner.

Enhancement of Recreation of stewardship and Access (ERSA) Grants (related to due to stimulus money. There don't seem to have any matching fund requirements for the ERSA grants. Would be a good opportunity for the Cow Pasture Committee to pursue. On July 19th from 4:30 to 6:00 there's an informational meeting. Chris will and Janette will join in this informational web meeting. Chris will forward the e-mail to Janette.

Questions for the meeting:

1. Is there a need for multiple bids for the anticipated work?

2. Is there any conflict or competition with other city projects?

Janet is the city's grants administrator and Steve reported that she would help to process this grant along. The letter of interest is due on August 27th.

August 5th 3:00-4:30 and 11th 6:00-7:30 there are grant workshops, a session 1 and 2. Chris will e-mail Sherry regarding these two sessions.

Chris followed up about the Duffy property. The property is with Heney now. It's under contract again, for \$15,000. There could be a counter offer.

Recreational Trails grant does not allow for property acquisition.

The ERSA grant allows for right of way acquisition but not general land acquisitions are not allowable. Janette and Chris can look into this further. Steve commented that if you are going to include acquisition of property, then it needs to

Invasive Species- Forest Hero! Network & Hope Cemetery- Tim reported on the two evening sessions about how to educate people on species.

There were some identification exercises as well.

Tim can share the resources with everyone:

- Common invasives
- How to ID
- How to distinguish from look-a-like species
- Details on how to remove them.

When you join the Forest Hero!es, you are signing up to do some invasive removal.

Tim discussed expanding the invasives training with the public.

Tim has reached out to the trainers to discuss Hope Cemetery where most of the hedges are the winged euonymus (burning bush) species. Tim will follow up with them.

Motion was made by Janette and seconded by Chris to appoint Tim to coordinate an invasives removal in the fall and will follow up with the committee and solicit participants from the wider community.

2021 Initiatives Previously Identified (remaining):

- Alternative entrance posting
- Brush Hogging
- Kiosk Inspection
- Trail Assessment
- Fenced Enclosure

Chris motioned to adjourn and Janette seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 6:41 PM.

2021 Upcoming Meetings (5:30 – 6:30)

September 16, 2021

November 18, 2021