

Minutes Cow Pasture Committee

Thursday –January 17, 2019

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Mike Perrigo, Tim Rapezynski, Maura Quinn, Mark Martin

Non- Committee Members in Attendance: Crysta Daniels, Steve Mackenzie, Fabio Balenzano

1. Call to order: 5:38 pm
2. Adjustments to Agenda: None
3. Approval of minutes (10-20-2018)–Moved: Mike, Seconded: Mark. Motion passes.
4. Agenda Items:

Updates:

- Social Media-Highlights: Tim has been learning about the options available to site Managers-. The site has a following with 45 likes. Tim will work with Maura to coordinate ability to submit posts. Tim offered to contact Ken Benton to request post and he will post information regarding WinterFest now that City Council has approved the event.
- Committee Update: Alex Pastor has resigned. Committee is now at 6 members. If only 5 members are at a meeting any motion needs to be unanimous to pass. Recruitment of new Members with special interest in the vacant Natural Resource Co-Coordinator position is a priority. A post meeting inquiry was made to find out if non-City residents can serve on the Committee. Steve confirmed that non-City residents may serve on Committee's as long as the majority of the members are City residents.
- Conservation Sub-Committee Update: Mark Martin and Mike Fraysier met to discuss potential ways to permanently conserve the property. A conversation with staff at the Trust for Public Lands confirmed that the property would be a low priority. Trail easements on adjoining properties are a consideration. The Sub-Committee will continue to meet and explore options.

Hunting Incident:

- A draft letter to adjoining landowners was discussed to determine if it should be sent. The intent of the letter was to let neighbors know that Cow Pasture trails run the perimeter of the property and hunters should be aware that Pasture trails are heavily used and in close proximity to the property boundary line. Posting of the property to flag the City boundary was discussed. Concerns identified were unintentional consequences of posting and /or sending a letter. It was noted that the deer that was killed on the property was likely not illegal since it appeared to have been shot on an adjoining property and fled to the City Pasture where it was killed. Mike Perrigo made a motion to post pone a decision to send a letter and/or post the property to the fall meeting. Motion was seconded by Maura. All in favor. Motion passed.

City Ordinances:

- Mark will review the existing City Ordinances and provide recommendations on additional ordinances appropriate for the Cow Pasture property. Chief Bombardier recommended a no hunting or trapping ordinance.

WinterFest:

- Darren – Vermont Bicycle Shop attended the meeting and will be advertising and hosting the event. Committee Members are encouraged to attend to assist if needed. The intent is to highlight the conserved area and encourage healthy, low impact outdoor recreation. The following post on Front Porch Forum highlights meeting discussions:

- Come join Vermont Bicycle Shop in celebrating winter at the Barre City Cowpasture Conservation Area on Sunday, Feb. 10 from 1-3 pm ! Espresso Bueno will provide hot chocolate, VBS will provide guided fat bike and snowshoe tours (bring your own gear if you have it, there will be limited bikes for those interested in trying out fat bikes). VBS doesn't provide snowshoes. There will also be sledding (some demo racing sleds will be available on a limited basis). Bring your own sled or toboggan if you have them. Children MUST be accompanied by adults. This is an opportunity to discover Barre's hidden treasure, a 68 acre conservation area with trails, forest, meadows right in the city limits! There is VERY limited parking (at the end of Maplewood Ave.) so please consider walking or car pooling. This event is for anyone who wants to enjoy outdoor winter fun, no matter your fitness or skill level. For more information contact Darren (darren@vermontbicycleshop.com), call 622-822 or visit the shop at 105 North Main St. Barre, or check out the website (Vermontbicycleshop.com)

Future Agenda Items:

- Green-up Day- and purchase of invasive root puller
- VYCC 2019 Projects
- Cow Pasture entrance Improvements-Site visit with Bill Ahearn
- Cow Pasture logo
- City signs identifying trail entrances.
- Replacing Maps – Map Revision to reflect rerouted trail.
- City Leash Law/Dog etiquette guidelines –Draft electronically submitted by Maura 7-17-18. Will be discussed after ordinance is changed.
- Coordinate with Amanda Garland (Barre Tech.) to identify potential projects that may include invasive species guide or tree ID
- Vacant positions: Fundraising Coordinator /Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Natural Resource Manager

5. Adjourn 6:50 p.m. Chris - Motion to adjourn. Passed

2019 Meeting Schedule:

March 19, 2018

May 21, 2019

July 16, 2019

September 17, 2019

November 19, 2019

Time: 5:30 –6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: City Hall- Conference Room

Important Dates/Meetings:

Winter Fest- February 10, 2019 1-3 p.m.