

**Minutes Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee**  
**Thursday – September 16, 2021**  
**5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

In Attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deshler, Carl Hilton-VanOsdall (joined at 6:17), Jennette Shaffer

Non-Committee Members in Attendance: Steve Mackenzie,

- Call to order: 5:38 pm
- Adjustments to Agenda: Tim- Requested adding SnoBee Agreement
- Approval of minutes (5-20-2021): Moved- Chris. Seconded-Jim. All in favor -Motion passes
- Agenda Items:

**Updates:**

**ERSA Grant-** City Council approved the City moving forward with the a Letter of Interest followed by a full application if selected. The interpretation of the email sent by the grant administrator is that Barre has been invited to apply for the Grant and the application materials will be sent September 27, 2021.

Chris sent a letter of Committee Support of the Grant.

Motion to allow sub-committee to work on the Application- Tim. Seconded -Jim. All in favor – Motion passes. Chris, Jim and Janette will work as a sub-committee and co-ordinate with Janet Shatney.

**Winged Euonymus** – Tim discussed the presence of Euonymus hedges (a.k.a. Burning Bush) in Hope Cemetery and impact on Cow Pasture property (seed dispersal) with State of Vermont Invasives specialists. Although no longer allowed to be sold in Vermont, the species is not a high priority to the State and funding for removal and replacement of the bushes would not be a priority at this time. Janette recommended educational outreach. Fall being a good time with foliage being brightly colored allowing plant to be easily identified. Future goal would be to create signs and educate walkers and continue to include removal as part of Green-up Day efforts. Tim may have time to post educational information on Front Porch Forum and Facebook and will contact Jeff Bergeron- Facilities Director to discuss the importance of continued pruning of the bushes to reduce seed production and proper disposal of trimmings.

**Virtual Outing-** Jim will continue to work on this with Fab

**New Agenda Items:**

**ERSA Grant-** Sub-committee will work on the application and co-ordinate with Janet Shatney. Full application due November 15,2021. Motion to schedule a ‘Special Meeting’ on November 4<sup>th</sup> (prior to application due date) and cancel the November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Carl. Seconded- Jim. All in favor – Motion passes.

**Property Walk-** Tim will send Committee members information on scheduling best date to scope out the alternative trail route and stream crossing. Aiming for the first week in October.

**2021 Initiatives Previously Identified**

- Alternative entrance posting – will be part of the ERSA Grant sign considerations
- Brush Hogging- Scheduled to be completed in 2021, three years after initial mowing. City does not have a contract for 2021. Chris proposed postponing until after work is completed to open a more desirable route from RT 14. This is part of the scope of work outlined in the ERSA letter of interest.

- Kiosk Inspection. Steve will complete. Chris noted that the Committee opted for optional pressure treated support and this may be why the post are not showing signs of rot. Kiosk will continue to be inspected on a yearly basis.
- Trail Assessment. Part of the scope of work outlined in the ERSA letter of interest.
- Fenced Enclosure. Postponed until after work is completed on an access route from RT. 14.

**Snow Mobile Access/SnoBee Agreement-** SnoBees typically request City (Council) Approval in the late Fall. The Committee requests that an attachment be included with the VAST form outlining additional conditions for the Cow Pasture property. Steve manages the Council Agenda and will postpone any request to go before Council until after the Committee has approved the revised conditions. Chris will update the attachment for the 2021-2022 approval using track change. Clarifications and additional conditions recommended by the Committee include: only allow for use of the existing groomed main connector trail, MPH speed limit reduction, tree *trimming* may not be done prior to SnoBee member walking the trail with a committee member, trees may not be cut without approval, limit the size of removal to 1”, prohibit trimming within a buffer zone of the stream crossing, specify how far off the trail the trimmings are to be piled and specify a date that signs must be removed from the property and gate closed by the Club.

**Adjourn:** 6:55 p.m.. Tim- Motion to Adjourn, Moved-Janette All in favor-Motion passes.

**2021 Meeting Schedule:**

Special Meeting- November 4, 2021

November 18, 2021 – To be cancelled

Time: 5:30 –6:30 p.m.

Meeting Location\*: Virtual meetings until further notice.

**Important Dates/Meetings:**

Property Walk- Date to be determined

September 27, 2021-ERSA Grant Application info. To be sent to City

November 15, 2021-ERSA Application due