

**Minutes**  
**Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee**  
**January 19, 2023**

**In attendance:**

- Public Service Building In-person Attendees: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deshler, Janette Shaffer. Hybrid via speaker phone: Marc Cote (5:30-7:00)
- Guests: Susan McDowell and Steve MacKenzie.

1. **Call to order:** 5:42 p.m. Start delayed due to absence of city laptop and Owl device for providing Zoom virtual option at the Public Service Meeting Room.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** Add guest introductions to agenda after Approval of Minutes.
3. **Agenda Items:**

Approval of Minutes from 11-17-2022: No changes. Motion: approve 11-17-2022 minutes moved by Janette, seconded by Chris. All in favor - motion passes.

Guests: Steve has enjoyed the Cow Pasture (CP) for close to 50 years; as always, we appreciate his sage advice and knowledge. Sue loves the CP and has spent much time walking and enjoying the forest. Both guests are considering joining a city committee and seeing what we are up to.

New Meeting Site and Zoom Updates: The public service building did not have the meeting on their schedule, but they let us in. The meeting room was not prepared for a City committee meeting, the promised laptop and owl meeting device was not present. We attempted to call Barre City's IT Specialist Ryan Starr to find out where the equipment was located but his phone went directly to a voicemail that was not accepting messages because the inbox was full. **Jim D will reach out to the City manager and IT to confirm what the rules around hybrid meetings are and to ensure we have the proper equipment next time we meet.**

Committee Web Page and Gmail Account: The login and password for the CP committee's shared Gmail account ([cowpasturevt@gmail.com](mailto:cowpasturevt@gmail.com)) was shared with all committee members. A discussion was had about updating photos on the committee webpage. A Google drive folder will be created for storing photos of the CP for web/promotion use. Caution was recommended if pictures have minors without a photo use release (*do not use them*).

Ford Property: Discussed the status of the parcel along Maplewood Avenue, and potential action items to conserve the property. Chris believes the property is under contract and will be sold. The purchaser is planning to build houses, the property has been an unofficial part of the CP trail system for a number of years. If the property sale does not go through, the CP committee will call a special meeting to discuss purchase or conservation options of this property. Chris shared a document summarizing this property created by the committee a few years ago; it can serve as background info if the property does go back on the real estate market. Marc was unable to see the map we were reviewing, **Tim will send a copy of the map to all members.**

Committee Reset Discussion: There was some uncertainty over whether the CP committee still has time to comment on the proposed reorganization and change of duties suggested by the City Manager and City Council. The committee is unclear about what the expectations would be if

the new Canales Park and Land Conservation work was to become our responsibility. The committee is unanimous in its view that the CP committee should stay focused on the Cow Pasture only, and will draft a letter stating its position so the City can take this into consideration. Motion: Tim made a motion that he would draft a letter based on tonight's discussion, with review/edits provided by Janette and Jim. Seconded by Janette. All in favor - motion passes.

2022 Annual Report & Committee Presentation to City Council: The CP Annual report has been drafted, reviewed, and submitted. Motion: Janette made a motion to table the discussion of the presentation to City Council to the next meeting (3/16/23). Seconded by Tim. All in favor - motion passes.

Updates:

- ERSA Grant- Chris contacted Sherry at VT FPR and is waiting to hear back.
- T-shirts- on hold/no update.

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 p.m.

Minutes filed by: Jim Deshler

Upcoming Meetings

March 16, 2023

May 18, 2023

July 20, 2023

September 21, 2023

November 16, 2023