

Minutes
Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
May 18, 2023

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deshler, Janette Shaffer, Marc Cote.

Guests: Susan McDowell

1. **Call to order:** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Agenda Items:**

Approval of Minutes- March 16, 2023. Motion moved Chris, 2nd Janette. All in favor -motion passes.

ERSA Grant Update: Council was scheduled to accept the Grant at the May 16th Council Meeting. Janet Shatney has not finalized the RFP.

Land Acquisition: The Eastman (formerly Ford) property purchase brought forward to Council by Nicolas Storrellicastro and was approved by City Council April 25th. The purchased parcel includes all lots with the exception of 4 lots on Maplewood Ave. that have been cleared for development. Chris will locate survey stakes surrounding the 4 lots and visibly flag them with stakes and survey tape. It will be important to know the boundaries to prevent future cutting of City owned trees.

Janet Shatney is moving forward with securing an assessor for the 3 lots on Duffy Ave. that will be purchased with ERSA Grant Funds. She has communicated with Marilyn Ford.

Cow Pasture Property Survey: Property line boundaries are not known. Prior to a Trail Assessment and consideration of future trails boundaries should be identified. The Committee agreed that the City owned parcel between Sheridan/Quinlan and Mead (paper street) should be included in the survey and be included in the Cow Pasture boundary area. The City owned parcels were not included in the Cow Pasture boundary maps created for the Management Plan (2017). The Eastman property and Ford property that will be purchased with ERSA Grant funds will also be included as part of the Cow Pasture Conservation lands. Nicolas was to follow-up with Bill Ahearn, who was in favor of surveying the property when briefly discussed with Chris Russo-Fraysier in 2022.

Johnson Street: Trail Access from Johnson Street and protection of paper street access was discussed. Chris will follow-up with Nicolas.

'No Yard Waste' Signs: Yard waste has been dumped at the Sheridan/Quinlan entrance to the Cow Pasture. Discussed the need for a sign. Yard waste is a source of invasive plant materials as evident at the Cow Pasture entrance where Vinca Vine and Bishops Weed have been introduced and is spreading. Chris will talk with adjoining land owners and the Committee will pursue signage if deemed necessary.

Committee Member Recruitment: Janette and Susan have submitted paper work to be reappointed/appointed. One seat is open. Janette will post recruitment signs at the Kiosk. Chris continues to reach out to Central Vermont Career Center staff. Committee members will reach out to individuals that may be interested.

Hunting on Cow Pasture Property: Hunting is not allowed on the property. Chris discussed City policy with Police Chief Braedon Vail. *Regulation Of Firearms* is within City Ordinance Section 11-2. Discharge of a firearm is not allowed within the City, however Chief Vail shared that there are two private properties within City limits where hunting is allowed. An annual

permit is required to hunt within the Barre City limits. If Chief Vail was approached for a permit to hunt on City owned property, he would request City Council approval. He did not believe a permit would be issued due to safety/liability concerns. He suggested a permanent solution would be to request an Ordinance that would prohibit hunting on City owned land. The Committee did not feel that pursuing an ordinance change would be necessary. The opinion expressed was that it would be highly unlikely Council would allow hunting on this heavily trafficked parcel of land.

Updates:

- T-shirts: Janette investigated and learned that the multi-color logo would be expensive to reproduce. Tim will send her the original logo that was not color enhanced.
- Council Presentation: It is the Committee understanding that this is not a requirement. Due to time constraints this will not be scheduled at this time.
- Central Vermont Career Center Spring Partnership. The Exploratory Science class worked in the Pasture April 14th, 19th, and 21st as originally planned and returned on June 5th. Many large invasives were removed with a focus on the triangle previously worked on and on June 5th the area above Hope cemetery. Very large buckthorn, honeysuckle and winged euonymus were removed with a focus on removing as much root system as possible. There is a very noticeable difference in the areas the students focused on.
- Green-Up Day- Four Committee members, two community members and Mayor Hemmerick removed invasive winged euonymus from above the Cow Pasture property across from Hope Cemetery. Very little trash was found and this was the first year that clean-up of abandoned encampments was not necessary.
- Fenced Enclosure Clean-up: The City needs to first clear the road to the fence which would be in-kind ERSA Grant work. At the time of the Meeting the City had not signed off on the ERSA Grant Agreement. No update.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Tim. Seconded – Jim. All in favor. Motion passes

Important Dates:

Upcoming Committee Meetings

July 20, 2023

September 21, 2023

November 16, 2023