

Minutes: Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
Thursday July 21, 2022
5:30-6:30 P.M.

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Jim Deshler (5:30-6:30), Janette Shaffer, Fabienne Pattison, Marc Cote (5:30 – 6:20). Call to order: 5:35 p.m. (meeting virtually due to rain/thunderstorms)

Adjustments to Agenda: Tim added an agenda item discussing the creation of a sub-committee to look into options for spending money from the memorial fund in memory of Danny Russo. Tim & Fab volunteered to be on the committee, Chris suggested Mike Fraysier may be interested in participating also. Fab mentioned she has some ideas to run by folks. Other suggestions include locating a space (in and out trail) for quiet reflection, perhaps with a peaceful hopeful message carved in natural stone, or to allocate the fund for future land acquisition.

NOTE: Approval of March 17th 2022 meeting minutes inadvertently not included in the March agenda, approval is needed at this July Meeting. Motion to approve March 17 meeting minutes made by Janette & seconded by Chris: all in favor. Motion to approve June 2, 2022 meeting minutes made by Janette, seconded by Marc; all in favor.

Agenda Items:

1. **SnoBees:** Trail Maintenance (2022-2023) – Committee is interested in knowing the SnoBees plans for VAST trail maintenance this year. Marc reported that in September ‘22 Dave Watson and Matt Marsh want to brush hog the VAST segment starting at the bench in an uphill direction (“mostly honeysuckle”), this area has not been brush hogged previously. Suggestion that someone from the Committee flag any trees in this area that shouldn’t be cut down. Committee is curious if the SnowBees would be interested in discussing brush hogging of the meadow if Chris determines that the City will not be able to do this, although the City has committed to doing this in the past. The Management Plan requires brush hogging in late summer every 2-3 years. It will be 4 years since the meadow was brush-hogged this fall. Access for brush hogging might require widening the trail from the cemetery or moving the large stones at entrance on Maple Wood Ave. **Marc will contact SnoBees to confirm when and where they would like to do this. Tim will contact the new City Manager to find out if the City plans to brush hog the meadow this fall. Chris will contact Steve Mackenzie to encourage brush hogging of the meadow.**

2. **Guided Trail Walks at Cow Pasture:** (First walk will be on August 18th) Fab wants to lead community trail walks at the Cow Pasture every third Thursday of the month at 10 am. Janette recommended a noon time walk might attract more people (state workers/others on lunch break). **Chris or Tim will post a message to advertise the walk on Front Porch Forum and/or the Cow Pasture Facebook page.** Suggestion made to create a flier, and perform outreach to Rainbow Bridge Community Center, WCMH, State Offices, etc. **Janette and Fab will work together to create a flier to advertise the CP walk and a gmail account for general contact to the Cow Pasture**

Committee. *Motion made by Tim to create a Cow Pasture Gmail account, Janette seconded.*

3. **T-shirts:** Janette proposed the Committee use Semperbond funds to make t-shirts with the CP logo on them. Not a high priority, but Janet will check in with her friend about printing. Discuss again in September.
4. **Meeting Time:** Tim made a motion to change the Cow Pasture meeting time from 5:30-6:30 to 5:30-7:00, Fab seconded.
5. **Updates:**
 - **Committee Membership & City Staff Representative**
 - No new requests to join the committee based on the City's outreach.
 - It would be good to have someone from the city as a rep. Maybe the new city manager? **Chris will follow up on this.**
 - **ERSA Update**
 - Still not finalized. Chris is hoping we can still get some contracts in place and trail scoping completed this fall.
 - **Invasive Removal**
 - Youth Volunteers - June 25th; Enough Ministry – Pastor Dan. Chris said there were ~40 youngsters and 6 adults that swept part of the property across from Hope Cemetery, pulling up all sorts of invasives - not surprisingly, winged euonymus was one of them.

Meeting adjourned: 6:36 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings
September 15 • November 17 • January 19, 2023