

Minutes
Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
May 16, 2024

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Tim Rapczynski, Janette Shaffer (6:24 PM), Marc Cote, Mark Martin, Susan McDowell

Guests: Steve Mackenzie, Eric (Last name unknown) (5:47 pm) and Greg Rouleau (Director of the SnoBees).

1. Call to Order: 5:40 pm

2. Adjustments to Agenda: None.

3. Agenda Items:

Communication Agreement & Mission Statement Reading -

Approval of Minutes- March 21, 2024. All in favor motion passes.

ERSA Grant Updates and Discussions:

Ford Property: Closing was April 30th. Purchase price was \$5,000 more than budgeted. Appraisal/closing fees have not been shared with the Committee and may come in over what was budgeted 3 years ago. Chris received State approval to shift the \$5,000 Hazard Tree line item to the purchase price of the Ford property since the scope of the work will not change. City will remove any trees that are a hazard to the M4-1 Trail.

Apex Trailworks LLC.: Contract has been signed with Zac Freeman. Work is in progress.

Stream Alteration Permit: Jim Deshler completed the State Application required for bridge construction and submitted it to Janet Shatney. The application was approved and submitted to the State.

Sign Design: Options available: metal mounted to wooden posts or engraved wooden post. Engraved posts were the Committees preference. Trail names will be assigned to routes identified by Zac in the Trail Assessment. The Committee discussed children friendly feature-oriented names.

Committee Membership/Terms: Tim Rapczynski (Co-Chair) and Mark Cote will not be renewing membership. Greg Rouleau (Director of the SnoBees Club) attended the Meeting and will be applying for a committee position. Eric (guest) also attended the Meeting and has an interest in joining the Committee. Eric has a background in Natural Resources. City Council has approved the City Manager to stagger term expirations.

Advisory Groups: Tim: Motion to Approve final Advisory Group Proposals, Susan: seconded. All in favor motion passes. The Advisory Group Mission Statements will be posted on the Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee's City Web page.

Conservation & Access: The Advisory Group met and discussed priorities. Action items: Correspondence was sent to the City Manager that included the Groups Mission statement. The communication requested approval to include the City owned parcels along Duffy Ave. (paper street) in the Cow Pasture Conservation area along with the recently acquired Ford and Eastman properties. The sub-committee also discussed acquiring signs to inform users of the Perrin property that the land is private and requires respect for continued access.

Invasive Plant Control: The Advisory Group organized the Green-Up Day activity and also coordinated with Central VT Career Center staff to organize invasive plant removal workdays in the Cow Pasture (see below).

Approval of Sign Purchase: Due to recent incidents on the Perrin property the owners were considering posting the property. The trails on this private property are important routes to the Cow Pasture trail system. Many believe this large parcel of private property is part of the City owned land. Chris suggested to the landowners, as an alternative intermediate step, that the Committee purchase signs with a message they would like to convey and at locations the owners would like posted. Four signs with the message "*Private Property. Continued access depends on picking up after your dog and yourself.*" were agreed on. Estimated cost of w/o tax/hardware is \$360. Motion (Chris): Purchase 4 signs/posts and hardware with the Semprebond funds. Motion seconded (Tim): Allow for the purchase of needed materials up to \$450. All in favor: Motion passes.

Green-Up Day/Career Center Activities:

The Invasive Plant Advisory Group organized a Green-Up Day event and advertised on Facebook and FPF. There was an educational component at the beginning of the event. The area of focus was the recently

purchased Eastman parcel. Trash and invasives were removed. Seven community members that included 2 children and four Committee members participated. Trail maintenance work was also completed. The Career Centers Exploratory Program once again completed several days of educational and work activities in the Pasture. Numerous *large* invasive shrubs were removed. Twenty students and two instructors participated. The Committee treated the class to pizza using Semprebon Funds (\$50.16) and homemade cookies for their efforts.

Updates (if any): None.

- No Yard Waste Signs: Sheridan-Quinlan (no update).
 - Council Presentation (no update)
 - Fenced Enclosure (no update)
 - Property survey (no update)
 - Hunting/trapping within City limits (no update)
4. **Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn at 7:03 (Tim). All in favor.