

Minutes
Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
October 3, 2024

In attendance: Chris Russo-Fraysier, Janette Shaffer, Jim Deshler, Mark Martin, Susan McDowell.

Guests: Amanda Gustin

1. Call to Order: 5:38 pm

2. Adjustments to Agenda: Request from City Council: Committee Charge and Scheduling an appearance before City Council.

3. Agenda Items:

Communication Agreement & Mission Statement – Reading

Approval of Minutes- July 18, 2024. All in favor motion passes.

ERSA Update and Decisions:

Trail Assessment: The *Draft* was submitted. It is a rough draft without a finalized map that is not ready to share with the full Committee. The ERSA Sub-Committee will review the draft and provide Zac with needed revisions and comments. The revised draft will be shared with the Committee.

Trail Work: Completion of the following 3 projects have not been completed: Reroute a short section of S-3 where it meets M1-1 to correct the angle of approach and close a steep blind corner (occasional snow mobile access from the side trail makes this a dangerous junction), open C-5 between the new trail and M1-3, and reroute the approach from C6-1 to C6-2. Zac may be confused on the location of the C-6-2 trail that he suggested closing due to an incorrect alignment of the M1-3 trail on the Map. The upper steep section of M1-3 was closed after the current maps were made and needs to be properly drawn on updated maps. The Committee agreed that the recommended route to the C9 trail should be discontinued due to the need to mow the fern meadow in order to make this a viable trail.

Signs: The ERSA Grant and RFP requires: At least 8 wayfinding signs, update and replace the kiosk sign and 3 wayfinding signs (with Map and you are here location identified). Decisions on trail routes and names need to take the budgeted number of signs into consideration in order to minimize the number of signs needed.

Trail Names: The draft Trail Assessment provided recommended of trail routes and names. A map with the proposed trail routes outlined trail was reviewed. The Committee and meeting guest provided alternative routes that all agreed upon. Chris, on behalf of Greg Rouleau (SnoBees President) shared his desire to have the SnoBee's route named after the Club. The Committee unanimously agreed that the original theme of naming trails after land features would be preferred. Recommended trail names from prior Meetings will be proposed for the trail routes discussed at our next Meeting.

Reporting to State: Not discussed.

Prior to the City being reimbursed for completed work there is a reporting requirement. Janette reviewed the requirements and asked if the City will be submitting the documentation. Chris believed that the City (Grant Applicant) would be required to complete and submit the documentation. Jim will contact Janet and inquire about the process. He will also request a current list of expenditures.

In-Kind City Work: The Public Works Foreman has not contacted Chris to discuss work to be completed. It is expected that this work will not be completed until 2025.

Advisory Groups:

Conservation & Access:

- 1) Mark calculated the increase in acreage from the acquisition of the Ford parcels acquired with the ERSA Grant, the parcels purchased by the City from Brad Eastman and the inclusion of City owned property that the S3 trail traverses into the Cow Pasture Boundary. The original ~ 70 acre parcel increased by 11.7 acres and is now 81.7 acres. This is a 16.7 % increase in size.
- 2) The S3 trail crosses less than 200' along the boarder of two lots owned by Robert Loso. Robert is agreeable to signing an agreement with the City to allow continued access. The agreement will be renewed every 3 years. The City Manager will triage the review of this request with the City Attorney

for finalization of an Agreement. This provides the greenlight needed by Zac to include this important property access trail on the Cow Pasture Maps.

Invasive Plant Control: Susan provided an update on two initiatives.

- 1) October 12th (October 13th is the rain date) for a Committee effort to cut and wrap the stumps of large buckthorn bushes in the triangle of C1-M2-3 and M2-2. She will inquire about obtaining a burn permit to allow the Committee to burn the pile of brush next year.
- 2) Several Committee Members have made a pledge to remove invasives.

Committee Membership and Member Recruitment (1):

Greg Rouleau (SnoBees President) has applied to the City for Committee membership. One additional position is open. The Committee discussed needed expertise and will advertise on Front Porch Forum. Expertise in Grant writing, trail maintenance, invasive species and especially public relations are desirable skill sets. Susan will follow through with advertising. Committee members were encouraged to help spread the word.

Winooski N.R. Conservation District Outreach: The new District Manager, Daniel Koeneman, reached out to the Committee on September 5th via our gmail account to introduce himself and to let the Committee know if we could think of any way to collaborate, are in need of natural resource help, or would simply like to meet and greet that he would be happy to hear from us. Chris and Mark will be Meeting with Daniel at the Cow Pasture on November 5th @ 2:00 pm to show him the trails and talk to him about Committee goals and aspirations.

4. **Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn at 7:05 (Mark). All in favor. Motion passes