

Water Street Land Use Committee Meeting

November 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Town Office, Jamaica, VT

Attending: Jacki Brown (chair), Erica Bowman, Norma O'Brien, Anne Connor (recording)

Absent: Kate Ullman

Convened: Jacki Brown called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Discuss Phase 1:** Removal of invasive plants and clearing of impediments; field mowing
 - a. At this point, work can't be done until spring 2023, which is still within the current fiscal year (it goes through June). The Selectboard approved \$1,500 for this fiscal year.
 - b. The committee proposes to use the \$1,500 for the meadow and seek a separate grant to clear invasive plants from the stream bank. Noted that it is difficult to find contractors.
 - c. **Motion:** Accept the current \$1,500 bid from John Cravinho without securing additional bids, on the condition that additional bids are not required by town policies. Moved by Jacki Brown, seconded by Erica Bowman. Passed unopposed.

2. **Discuss Phase 2:** Development of wildflower pollinator meadow (ribbons)
 - a. **Fixed costs** include hoses, tripod sprinklers, and a well head connector (about **\$900**)
 - b. **Location and square footage of ribbons:** Planning for 3 ribbons staggered across the front of the meadow. The **field** is 2.14 acres. The "intentional meadow" section is .47 acres or about 20,000 sf. The ribbons are about a quarter of the meadow, .11 acres or 5,000 sf.
 - c. **Cost to prepare soil:**
 - i. Erica will pull soil samples and send them for testing. Approximate cost: **\$15**.
 - ii. Once we know the state of the soil, we may need to amend it with specific nutrients. Cost TBD. Erica will send us an estimate following soil testing. Placeholder: **\$800**
 - iii. Cost of manure: 45 cubic feet, about \$1,340 plus delivery. About **\$1,400?**
 - d. **Labor cost** to rake stones and roots out: \$50/hour per person, 12 hours: **\$600**, plus a line item to dispose of the debris (placeholder, **\$100**).
 - e. **Cost of plugs:** 18 flats (6 per ribbon), 450 plants per ribbon, about **\$1,500**.
 - f. Request an annual mow by the town crew as an in-kind donation, and then seed the area in the fall once mowed. Seeds could be donated to supplement the plug flowers. Potential public event.
 - g. Volunteer work needs: Planting
 - h. Grant and private donor opportunities: GoFundMe gifts to go into the town coffers (to a designated fund). The committee will seek additional garden grants for Phase 2.

3. **Discuss plan for future annual needs:**
 - a. Annual late fall mowing (in kind from town) – need a high mower
 - b. Spring plantings of additional flowers for existing ribbons
 - c. Consider improvement of the narrow strip of grass along the sidewalk
 - d. Investigate environmentally friendly ways to maintain the property

- e. Dollar amount TBD, with fundraising and grantseeking included based on needs. Not requesting multi year funding. Goal of self-sustainment.

4. Presentation to Selectboard

- a. Scheduled November 28
- b. **Motion:** Approve plan as discussed at tonight's meeting, with estimated numbers to be confirmed through email, and base presentation on that plan. Moved by Jacki, seconded by Erica, unanimously approved.
- c. Goal is to have a consensus by November 21.
 - i. Anne to compile slide deck, to include map image from Erica and budget, and send to the group by Friday, November 18.
 - ii. Jacki to check on connection needs/costs for well head.

Adjourned the meeting at 7:32. Moved by Jacki, seconded by Erica, passed unanimously.