

**Minutes of the Kudzu Committee, City of Sky Valley, Georgia Held on
August 7, 2017 at 10:30 AM, Sky Valley Country Club**

Kudzu Committee Members Present: Rudy Masi, Sr., Dolly Masi, Vickie Heher, Steve Messer, Ed Steil, Myrna Warner, Kitsie Cain, Jan Mason, Steve Mason, Barbara Kobacker, James Holbrook, Marilyn Katzenmeyer & Linda Lapeyrouse.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chairman Rudy Masi called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Masi gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of Committee

4. Committee Chair Remarks

Committee Chair Rudy Masi provided the following remarks: Eradication of Kudzu will be a marathon not a sprint. It could take years so it is crucial that we get started right away on our project. Since there is also no one time treatment we will have to be committed to continuing our efforts to remove the Kudzu from our city.

The Kudzu bug is already in Rabun County. Kudzu grows at the rate of one foot per day and can be brought into the area by birds or anyone bringing in top soil. It cannot tolerate being without sunlight so one method for eradicating Kudzu is using black vinyl. Mowing Kudzu constantly for 1-2 years will also kill it. In addition, a herbicide called Cross Bow has been found to be very effective. Cross Bow will not kill grass but will kill anything with a broad leaf.

Another method is to find the crown, cut it back and spray it with Round Up. And the other method mentioned was the use of helium. However, it has not been officially approved according to the Rabun County Agricultural and Natural Resources Department.

5. Remarks to and by City Manager Linda Lapeyrouse

Kudzu is now in Sky Valley. It is down by the water fall, in the area adjacent to the Post Office and Pickelball Courts, Big Bear Trail, Ridgepole, 16th hole on the golf course, and other areas. Since kudzu is spreading quickly in Sky

Valley, the Committee asked Linda to explore the option of listing Kudzu as a nuisance in falling under a new nuisance ordinance. Linda is consulting with the City Attorney at the request of this Committee. Once all of the information is in on a proposed new ordinance, the Committee will socialize it asking for public comment. Linda explained what a Nuisance Ordinance consists of and the need to educate folks and communicate the Kudzu issues. The Committee believes that this new ordinance should make home owners responsible for keeping Kudzu from spreading from their property to adjoining properties.

Additional Remarks

It was suggested that a workshop by the POA, Garden Club and City Council would be avenues for educating the community as it was felt that significant PR is needed. E-mails and putting our articles in the Welcome Center would also be good ways to communicate with the public.

Jan Mason suggested having pictures for documentation of our progress and she volunteered to be the photographer.

It was decided that we would not push for an ordinance until we have ample time to educate the general population on the Kudzu issues.

6. Motions

Barbara Kobacker made a motion to use the area between the Post Office and the Pickle Ball Courts as a pilot area for testing methods for the eradication of Kudzu. There was a 2nd by Kitsie Cain. After much discussion the motion carried.

Barbara Kobacker made a motion for using two methods for the test pilot: Cut around the crown and use two different herbicides (the first one Clopyrib generic for Lontrel and one made by Cross Bow which contains Triclopyr Amine). The second method is to spray the leaves with the same herbicides.

There was a 2nd by Kitsie Cain and after discussion the motion carried.

7. Work Date Set

It was decided that there will be a work date set for Friday, August 25th 9:00 AM in order to begin the test project laid out above. Parking will be at the Pickle Ball Courts. Workers are to bring gloves, shovels, pruning shears &

picks if they have them. The City has sprayers, picks, shovels, markers, gas shears, and yellow tape. The City will also bring stakes to mark the pilot area and make signs.

The following Committee Members have signed up to volunteer:

Rudy Masi

Dolly Masi

Steve Messer

Al Pointkowski

Barbara Kobacker – (water)

Myrna Warner

James Holbrooks along with two men from the City.

In the case of rain, the alternate date will be Tuesday, August 29th at 9:00 AM. We were all encouraged to invite anyone else we might know who would like to help.

8. To Do (in order to get the word out)

- Rudy will put together a Power Point Presentation with speaker notes for Committee Members to use in educating the public.
- Barbara Kobacker will provide a high level review of today's actions at the next Council Meeting. Rudy will provide bullet points.
- Rudy will speak to Doug Palmer and ask him to speak to his contacts at the Chapel.
- Ed Steil will speak to Holly Steil about letting us speak to the Garden Club.
- Vickie Heher will speak to Steve Heher and Steve Mason concerning the Golf Course.
- Barbara Kobacker will speak to Pam and Dave Spears concerning CBC.
- Rudy will address the Sky Valley Country Club.
- Rudy will order two different herbicides for pilot testing.
- City Employees will be directed to denote, mark in the field, and report Kudzu infected areas by Linda and/or James Holbrooks.

9. Meeting Adjourned

