

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2019**

Present: Cedric Alexander, Gary Gulka, Dawn Andrews, Chris Duff

Next Meeting: **October 14, 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of June 17 approved without changes

Public Comment

No public comment

Public Outreach

We did not get an article in the August issue of the Chronicle. We will review Chris' draft article on invasives and submit this article. Comments on the draft will be provided to Chris. Dawn will begin drafting an article on leaving a mess after cutting brush/trees for wildlife value. If this article is ready we can also submit for the next issue of the Chronicle; otherwise the following issue.

Next meeting we will focus on discussing outreach in more depth, including article topics for the coming year, some of which can be written in advance, especially when we have more time in the winter months.

A suggestion was made that we have a regular column in the Chronicle where the public can ask questions that we respond to. We will discuss this further at the next meeting and consider starting this up in the December issue of the Chronicle. Gary will look into how we can have an email address that can be used for submitting questions.

At next meeting we will also discuss ideas for public presentations on various topics. A concern was expressed that low attendance has been typical and we need to choose topics with that in mind that will attract/interest a broader audience. Dawn mentioned a new book by a Vermont college professor entitled *Repeopling of Vermont*, that discusses the historical tensions and conflicts between development and preservation. Dawn suggested it may be an opportunity for a public forum on the topic co-sponsored by the Planning Commission, Conservation Committee, and CCA. Dawn and Gary will look into this further and report back at next meeting.

Natural Resources Inventory

A Municipal Planning Grant application was dismissed for natural resource inventory (NRI) work since this topic does not meet any of the funding priorities, and after discussion with grant administrators, it seemed like we would have a very low probability of success. It was suggested that the Conservation Committee apply for a town meeting grant (CCIF funding), using some or all of the Conservation Fund, and seeking out additional grant sources such as Watershed grants to complete some of the wetland inventory work. Gary will research the CCIF grants and send out information on this. Dawn and Gary will meet to draft begin drafting a summary proposal of the NRI work and its importance to the town that can be used as part of a proposal and be used to inform the Select Board, Planning Commission, and others. Other funding sources will be looked into.

