

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2019**

Present: Ken Denton, Dawn Andrews, Gary Gulka, Chris Duff

Next Meeting: **December 9 , 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of August 12 approved without changes

Public Comment

No public comment

Natural Resource Inventory - Next Steps

Matt Peters, consulting ecologist, met with the committee to discuss a proposal to conduct mapping and field inventory work. The Committee discussed how to reduce the costs to \$15,000 for a proposal he previously submitted in June to the committee. It was agreed that some tasks and associated costs would be shifted to a second phase of the work in the following year, provided funding is available. Matt will submit a revised description of tasks, timeline and budget for phase 1 so that this can be submitted as part of a Town Meeting Day grant proposal from the committee. He will also outline the tasks for phase 2. Gary and Dawn will continue to work on the grant proposal (due November 1) and circulate to the committee for comment.

Public Outreach

It was suggested that we find a speaker for a presentation on mapping and natural resource inventories. We will make contact VT Fish & Wildlife.

Chris will draft an article for the December issue of the Cabot Chronicle.

Gary mentioned that a new edition of Wetland, Woodland, Wildland will be coming out in November and a copy should be purchased for the committee. The new edition will include additional natural communities in Vermont not covered in the first edition.

Dawn gave an overview of the annual conference of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. She attended training sessions on engaging the public in natural resources work. Copies of VT Fish & Wildlife's new publication entitled *Mapping Vermont's Natural Heritage* was handed out. Gary and Dawn spoke highly of the publication and town maps provided on CD. We will attempt to get additional copies for the Conservation Committee members as well as the Planning Commission and Cabot Library.