

Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2021

Present: Cedric Alexander, Gary Gulka, Roland Payne, Jr., Jim Wolynetz, Chris Duff, Dawn Andrews

Next Meeting: **November 8, 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of September 13 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

Invasives – Dawn mentioned that she has a hard copy of the publication entitled, *Developing Invasive Plant Outreach and Management Projects*. Gary sent a thank you to Robert Nelson for the Invasives workshop.

Ash Borer Management Plan – still no direct input from the Select Board on the plan and the areas they need to address. It was suggested that American Rescue Plan funds (ARPA) might be a way to fund implementation of the plan.

EV Charging Station – The station has been up and running for two weeks. The station is up on the Plugshare app that also identifies amenities in the vicinity of the station. The line painting for parking is not correct and must be redone. Jim is trying to get the station on Google Maps. Jim has not been able to get the State to agree to put signs up on Route 2 and Route 15. The consistent response is that the locations are too far away; however, the State did acknowledge that longer distances may be a valid point in rural areas that could be considered in future policy. Jim said that he may contact Walden for permission to place a sign on their property on Route 15. It was suggested that he contacts Roger Fox in Walden who may be of assistance.

Riparian Buffers – Jim had a stormwater assessment on his property by Friends of the Winooski. There was comment in the assessment about the lack of vegetated buffer along the rec field tributary. Committee members felt that a buffer is worth pursuing. One question is who should be involved in a discussion of a feasibility of a buffer and its width. We are unsure whether it is the Recreation Committee, Select Board, or school. Gary will look into this.

Plant Sale – Jim indicated that he does not wish to continue participation in the plant sale. He feels that his opinion and suggestions are not being addressed. He also feels that the plant offerings are not in line with our goals of seeing native wild plants offered. Many plants are purchased from out-of-state sources and of limited conservation value. There was consensus that we consider breaking away from this plant sale and starting our own in 2023. Giving ourselves a year of lead time should allow us to find local nurseries that can supply us with the plants. Chris agreed to contact some of the plant sale organizers. Dawn said that we should not leave the issue hanging as to whether we participate in the sale or not and suggested we leave it up to Chris to inform them how we wish to participate or not participate in the 2022 plant sale. If we do not participate, we would still be willing to circulate the brochures for the sale.

At next meeting we agreed to discuss the types of plant species that we could pursue in our own plant sale.

Public Outreach

Roland will do an article on emerald ash borer and the future risks it poses to the town. Gary will do an article on the conservation resource library.

Review Priorities/New Projects

We will pursue proposals for ARPA funding for the EAB Plan and a second phase of the natural resource inventory. Gary will check with Mike Hogan.

At next meeting we will discuss review of the Natural Heritage section of the Town Plan.

New Business

None