

**Conservation Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2021**

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

Next Meeting: **April 12, 7:00 PM**

This meeting was held via tele-video conference in accordance with state open meeting statutes for electronic meetings.

Draft minutes of February 8 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Follow-up on Natural Communities Project

Gary will post the natural communities report and public meeting recording on the town web site. Also need to make several hard copies of the report for the library, town clerk's office and members of the committee.

Matt Peters has not made further contact with landowners that were not previously reached for permission to share findings with the Natural Heritage Program. We will need to follow up.

Plant Sale Update

Due date for orders is March 26. Advertising has been done on Front Porch Forum and flyers are available in town and is accessible on the Conservation Committee's page on the town web site.

Water Wise Woodlands Project Update

Jim and Gary are on the steering committee for this project. The next phase of the project is to schedule focus group meetings with woodlands owners, both in Current Use (UVA) and not in the Current Use Program. Purpose of these focus group meetings is to determine what are incentives/barriers to taking actions to promote water quality and flood resiliency and to help guide future outreach in the project.

Ash Borer Management Plan Update

Roland is working with CVRPC to develop a management plan template that will then be shared with the Select Board for their input. We expect action in the coming months.

Public Outreach

We will publicize a webinar scheduled for March 16 entitled *Clean Water in Your Backyard: What You Can Do to Improve Water Quality in the Upper Winooski Watershed*. Presenter will be Kristen Balschunat of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and we are co-sponsors along with Marshfield and Plainfield Conservation Commissions. The current plan is to present the webinar mid-day and have the recorded meeting available for later public viewing.

Spring wildflower/ephemeral walk is being planned for the spring. Chris will try to find a naturalist to help lead the walk. Committee members will provide names of individuals to Chris.

No specific ideas for April issue of Cabot Chronicle

We will still plan for a fall presentation on emerald ash borer status.

Priorities for Coming Year

We should consider finalizing this at our next meeting. No further ideas suggested at this point.

New Business

Jim provided an update on next steps for the EV charging station at the Willey Building after voters approved the installation on Town Meeting Day. Jim will be advertising for an electrician to volunteer services for the electrical install and working with the Select Board to move the project along.