

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021**

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

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

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

Draft minutes of April 20 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

EV Charging Station – There was an on-site meeting in the Willey Building parking lot with Select Board members and an electrician recommended by the Select Board to review the project and installation issues. Jim said that the cost estimate of \$2300 far exceeds the approximately \$800 for Plainfield's EV charging station installation. He has asked for a cost breakdown. There will be another on-site meeting in a week. Installation costs this high will necessitate additional fundraising.

Tree Mulching – Roland will be mulching trees on town property on Sunday, May 16, starting at 9 am and is looking for help. Jim and Cedric have volunteered to help.

Ash Borer Traps – Roland will be setting and monitoring two of the purple traps for detecting ash borers.

Public Outreach

It was noted that the wildflower walk was a huge success with 25 total participants. It was agreed to pay Brett Engstrom \$125 honorarium. Gary said he will put an article in the upcoming Chronicle.

Other Cabot Chronicle articles planned for the next issue are pollinators and native plants in landscaping.

Bird walk discussed for June. We will check a few locations in town and select a site with good access and parking as well as diverse habitat.

Public presentation on pollinators was discussed. Cabot Working Lands Committee would be interested in co-sponsoring. Gary will pursue a potential presenter.

Review Progress on 2021 Work Plan

We reviewed progress with some of the following notes:

- We will consider purchasing books and publications that can be housed at the library. Committee members will give some thought to book titles and field guides for purchase prior to July 1. This will be an agenda topic at the June meeting.

- Gary still needs to 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.
- We should begin looking at the Natural Heritage section of the existing Town Plan later in the year.
- We should still consider a meeting with the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation on Molly's Falls Pond State Park, meeting jointly with the Planning Commission, Select Board, and Trails Committee.

Review Annual Budget and Future Expenses

There are several hundred dollars remaining in this fiscal year's budget. After paying some public outreach expenses there could be a few hundred dollars for purchasing books and publications for the library. This will be discussed at the June meeting.

New Business

None