

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2021**

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

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

Draft minutes of June 14 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

EV Charging Station – Fundraising goal for the EV charging station was reached in early July, and the project will now move forward. A total of \$2836 in donations was received from 27 donors. The charging station has been ordered – it will cost \$1349 and is reimbursable from Green Mountain Power. Jim is ordering a sign that will be placed at the station. Other expenses beside the electrician costs include cash box, electric meter and box and paint for line painting. VTrans will provide road signage, and Jim is in contact with them to determine where they will place signs. It was suggested that we include an update in the upcoming Cabot Chronicle.

Draft Ash Borer Management Plan – The draft plan was discussed at last week’s Select Board meeting. The next step is to complete some of the detail in the plan, including cost estimates. Roland will be working on this and bringing the draft back to the Select Board. It appears that ash borer has been detected in the Danville Hill Rd purple trap. This is one of two traps in Cabot, the other being in the Town Forest.

Giant Hogweed Infestation – Roland fully suited up in a rubberized suit, gloves, and goggles and spent two and a half hours on a rainy early morning cutting down a giant hogweed patch on Elm Street. About 100 plants covered an area of about 3000 square feet. Plants were taken down with a bow saw. The site is difficult to access due to steep roadside slope. There was a lengthy discussion on treatment to eradicate and the challenges this presents. There is some advice that digging roots after the plants die back in the fall can be an effective control method. Roland said that the site is challenging to manage because of the steep bank where it grows. Suggestion that we communicate with the Select Board again about controlling this – by use of a contractor to continually apply herbicide and possibly other control methods before the hogweed spreads further. Suggestion that CCIF funds may be available to apply for to do this project.

Water Wise Woodlands Project – Nothing new to report. There have not been any meetings.

Tree Planting on the Common – There was some discussion about replacing a couple of trees on the town common, which would involve purchase of trees and bringing in heavy equipment to remove rock to provide an adequate soil substrate for good growth.

Public Outreach

Bird Walk – Successful bird walk held in June on Channel Drive and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. Fourteen persons in total. We should plan to do another walk next May.

Pollinator Webinar – Also done in June. The webinar was recorded and we will look for a way to make this available on line.

Several conservation-related books were purchased. These will be housed at the library on a dedicated conservation shelf. Gary will circulate a list of the publications purchased.

Chronicle Articles – An article on the hogweed infestation will be included as well as EV charging station update. We agreed that we should include monthly articles on a single invasive species.

It was also agreed that we should pursue a late summer workshop on identifying invasive plants that will include both classroom and field elements. Roland and Gary will work on finding a presenter.

New Business

We briefly discussed the possible availability of CCIF funding that we could put toward future natural community studies and invasive plant control. Some committee members planned to observe the giant hogweed site on Elm Street after the meeting adjourned.