

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2021**

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

Next Meeting: **September 13, 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of July 12 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

EV Charging Station – Equipment has arrived. Jim has met and spoken to Aaron Celley to discuss installation. VTrans will not provide roadside signs and Jim is pursuing other means to see if signs can be placed at major highway intersections. Jim will have the Select Board review the wording for the sign that will be placed above the station. It was recommended that Jim contact Central VT Regional Planning Commission and seek assistance on the signs from the transportation planner.

Giant Hogweed Infestation on Elm Street – There was discussion about approaching the Select Board again about hiring a contractor to eradicate the infestation on Elm Street. Roland will get a cost estimate for treatment. We can also pursue grants. There is concern that this is a health hazard and could spread down river, and this should be conveyed to the Select Board. We should plan on having a discussion with the Select Board in the fall.

Public Outreach

Invasive Plants Workshop – Gary will arrange for a conference call with County Forester, Robert Nelson, and FPR Invasives Coordinator, Elizabeth Spinney, to discuss a workshop in late summer/early fall. We discussed next steps after a workshop, which could include some mapping of invasives in town, assisting landowners identifying invasives on their property, and prioritizing areas for eradication/control. We will also seek suggestions from Elizabeth Spinney and Robert Nelson on next steps and grant opportunities.

Cabot Chronicle Articles – Next Chronicle deadline is mid-September. There was general agreement that we should have a regular column in the paper, naming it “Conservation Corner”. Next article topic is on hold until we find out about workshop details.

New Business

The Cabot Trails Committee is considering applying for a recreational grant for trails development and promotion in town. The Committee agreed that it would support this effort and be involved in any environmental stewardship aspects of trail design and layout.