

Cabot Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

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

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

Draft minutes of December 12 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

Cedric and Gary are working on finalizing the Conservation Commission tree and shrub sale materials this month.

Clark Sawmill Dam – Gary is chair of a workgroup to explore the feasibility of the sawmill dam removal. First meeting of workgroup is scheduled for January 23. Meetings will be warned and open to the public.

Public Outreach and Event Planning

January 15 – Vermont’s Forests in a Changing Climate – Presenter will be Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension Forester.

February 19 (Feb 26 backup date) – Outdoor winter tracking. Need to decide on location. Possibilities are McQueeney Trails (from Cabot Plains end) or Cabot Winter Trail (end of Dubray Rd). We will discuss this further.

March 15, 16, 22 or 23 – Bear Aware. Cedric will check on possible speakers and dates.

Other educational events to be discussed at future meetings: Ash borer and ash tree management (April), bird walk and spring ephemerals (May), and invasive plant identification and management (spring or late summer/fall)

Gary will draft a Cabot Chronicle article on upcoming events for the February edition.

Purchase of Weed Wrench for Invasives Removal

We have decided to purchase the Pullerbear Grip XL21 for \$149 plus \$30 shipping.

Draft RFP for Natural Communities Study

Gary raised the issue of the bid process at a recent Select Board meeting. The advice was to follow the town purchasing policy for projects exceeding \$20,000; therefore, we will go out to bid on the work.

Gary has spoken with Matt Peters about the second phase of the project – to involve continuing field work on properties with landowner permission in high and medium priority blocks; identifying priority forest blocks and connecting habitat; and conducting field trips to a few significant natural communities.

Matt will get back to Gary on a general scope of work that will be shared with the committee. Next step would be to draft RFP.

New Business

Chris will provide the results from this year's Plainfield Christmas bird count and historical data. Fewer species were seen this year.