

**Cabot Conservation Committee**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**March 20, 2023**

Present: Gary Gulka, Roland Payne, Jr., Dawn Andrews

Next Meeting: **April 10 , 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of January 9 approved with one typographical correction.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

Conservation Plant Sale – over 80 orders, 76 of which were online orders. Hope that next year, we consider eliminating mail order. The challenge is to maintain sales levels by finding new customers and changing the mix of plants each year. Existing customers may have less yard space to order additional plants in future years. We need to evaluate the volume of orders from the various towns to see where opportunities to expand sales are.

Sawmill Dam Workgroup – next step is to hire an appraiser for the Sawmill property. Friends of Winooski has identified a couple of appraisers that have experience with these kinds of properties and is pursuing hiring. Funds are available to cover the cost of the appraisal. It was suggested that the public be kept informed to avoid rumors about the site, especially in regard to its limited contamination.

New Public Safety Building Site – On hold until the snow melts and on site excavation occurs.

Outreach and Event Planning

Scheduled Bear Aware presentation at the Library on March 23.

It was agreed that we will sponsor a Emerald Ash Borer presentation on Sunday, April 23 at 4 pm. Roland will take the lead. We will have a short video on EAB and Roland has a kit that shows ash tree galleries and exit holes as well as preserved specimens of EAB larva and adult. It may also be useful if we can find a nearby ash tree to visit.

It was agreed that we should do a spring ephemeral walk in May, potentially hiring a botanist or naturalist. Talbert Farm is a good location. We have funding to hire a naturalist.

We also discussed a bird walk and invasive plants, but no decisions were reached.

Natural Communities/Natural Inventory

Funds have not yet been allocated by the Select Board, although there have been verbal assurances that funding will be found.