

**Cabot Conservation Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 8, 2023**

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

Next Meeting: **June 12, 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of April approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

Conservation Plant Sale – It was agreed that we should continue involvement in the plant sale for another year – if Plainfield and Marshfield Conservation Commissions are willing to continue. Gary feels that the sale should only be online orders and eliminate mail orders to simplify. Compensation should be provided for the labor of preparing the online website ordering platform and the hard copy brochure. Next year's sale would be led by Plainfield and our workload would be reduced – planning meetings in late summer/fall, outreach, and plant sale prep work the week before the sale. **Cedric will attend a meeting of the three commissions on May 18 to review this year's plant sale and discuss the future of the sale.**

Wildflower/Spring Ephemeral Walk – Bob Popp did an excellent job leading a group of eleven participants along the Talbert Farm Trails. We were perhaps a week early to see more flowers in bloom.

Outreach and Event Planning

Emerald ash borer presentation was well received. There was discussion about approaching the Select Board in the fall about funding for the ash tree management plan that was approved last year. It was acknowledged that this is not truly a conservation project but is assistance to our Tree Warden. **Gary will check with VLCT to find out how ash tree management and removal is viewed as an insurance issue and risk control issue.**

**Bird Walk – May 28, 1 pm We will encourage carpooling and direct parking along the side of Channel Drive. We will have someone at the start of Channel Drive and the parking area by the hay field.**

**June 11, 10 am – Pollinator walk at Hourihan Farm on Smith Rd. Spencer Hardy of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies will be leading a walk focusing on native wild bees – identification, natural history, and conservation. Gary agreed to help with advertising this walk.**

**We will be thinking about another event to schedule in the summer or fall. One idea was a town forest walk in the fall.**

New Business

Beaver management was discussed considering the recent removal of beavers that established a den and dam on the mainstem of the Winooski near the upper rec field on Guzman's property. **A copy of Duxbury's beaver management policy was distributed along with VT Fish & Wildlife Best Management Practices. We will review and discuss drafting a town policy at our next meeting.**