

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2022**

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

Next Meeting: **July 11, 7:00 PM**

Draft minutes of May 16 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Project Updates

Plant sale – Cedric and Gary attended a plant sale debriefing meeting with Plainfield and Marshfield Conservation Commissions. Cabot will be the lead on next year’s plant sale, and the other conservation commissions will be of assistance, especially since this is the first time we will have the lead. We have scheduled a meeting for August 10 to discuss offerings for next year’s plant sale and get an earlier start on contacting nurseries on plant availability and prices. The pickup point next year will be Marshfield Common.

Revenue from plant sale was \$611.91 for each town. Gary will talk with Town Clerk about depositing this in Conservation Fund.

A couple of in state and out-of-state nurseries were used. We can utilize additional nurseries next year if we research them for availability, shipping, etc. Cedric will check into a new nursery run by Tim McKay. Dawn mentioned Vermont Willow Nursery and a conservation nursery in Rutland County.

We will need to make some modifications to the plant sale flyer, and it looks like we will have to redo the flyer in a software program that we can use going forward.

There was discussion of having a few knowledgeable people at the pickup point to help any purchasers that have questions. A hard copy planting guide that could be handed out was suggested.

Natural Communities Study – Gary will contact Matt Peters to let him know that we have funding available to continue the study. We will have to comply with the town’s Purchasing Policy and should argue that this is a continuation of the project and a desire to use the same contractor.

Elm Street Hogweed Eradication – after the first treatment by Roland, he plans to go back before the end of June to cut any new growth. Cedric may assist.

Public Outreach

Roland has submitted a Cabot Chronicle article from the Tree Warden and Gary has drafted an article for Conservation Corner.

Rules of Procedure

The Committee began reviewing the Rules of Procedure from the Trails Committee in anticipation of adopting something similar for the Conservation Committee.

There was consensus that we have no more than two officers that share functions. One possibility suggested was a Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. We will revisit this at the next meeting. Dawn suggested that we make the officer role fit our functions.

In Article 3, quorum and majority should be clarified. Should a majority vote of the total membership (rather than just a quorum) be required for certain decisions, like expenditures or hiring of a contractor?

Don't use the word "shall" when referring to certain things like meeting dates, which can be subject to change.

Article 3, Item 10 – consider shortening this.

It was suggested that we could eliminate Article 6 expenditures or modify it.

General comment: We should look for opportunities to shorten the document.

Dawn is willing to make some edits for discussion at next meeting.