

Cabot Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2022

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

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

Draft minutes of August 8 approved without changes.

Public Comment

No public comment

Rules of Procedure

The draft Rules of Procedure with Chris' edits were reviewed. The Rules were approved unanimously with the following edits/changes:

Article 2.1: Third sentence eliminated, and second sentence now reads: "The Committee will be comprised of up to seven members, appointed by the Select Board following Town Meeting Day, for one-year terms."

Article 3.4: Add the following sentence at the end: "Decisions involving expenditures of more than \$250 from the annual budget or expenditures from the Conservation Fund require a majority vote of all Committee members."

Article 3.10: Add at the beginning of first sentence: "In accordance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law . . ."

Project Updates

Conservation Plant Sale – Cedric and Gary are working on the plant ordering process and will be meeting with East Hill Tree Farm and nursery and the Marshfield and Plainfield Conservation Commissions in the next week to decide on plant ordering details. We will also be reworking the plant sale flyer.

Clark Sawmill Dam – At last week's Select Board Meeting, removal of the Clark Sawmill Dam was discussed with a representative from the Central VT Regional Planning Commission. The Select Board is interested in proceeding with the process if agreement can be reached with the landowner and ownership of the land can be held by another entity that allows public access to the waterfront. The Select Board intends to appoint a task force to follow and participate in the dam removal process.

Natural Communities Study – Need to meet with the Select Board to determine whether we can continue the contract with Matt Peters or whether we need to go out to bid again.

Invasive Hogweed Removal on Elm Street – Roland has been monitoring and there are two places where plants have come back but no flowering. He expects some plants next year because there are still seeds present. If the plants are kept in check, it may be possible to dig out the tubers.

Ash Tree Management Plan – Indications from the Select Board that the road crew will not have time for ash tree removal. Will need to make sure that Select Board includes funding in next year's budget begin removal.

Public Outreach and Event Planning

It was agreed that we will plan for four public presentations during the fall, winter and early spring as follows:

Late October/Early November – Vermont's Forests in a Changing Climate (Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension)

January – Tracking Wildlife in Winter (by us)

March – Bear Aware Vermont (State F&W Bear Biologist)

April – Ash Borer and Ash Tree Management Plan

The following are possible warm weather outdoor events that need further discussion and planning:

Bird Walk

Spring Ephemerals

Invasive Plants Identification and Removal Techniques

A Walk in the Woods (focus on managing woodlands for wildlife)

It was agreed that we will purchase a weed wrench for pulling invasives which can be used for demonstrations or lent out for use by the public. We will check out the available weed wrenches for purchase.

Next Chronicle Article – Gary has agreed to write an article on Vermont Coverts