

Cabot Flood Resiliency Task Force
Meeting Notes
February 4, 2026

Present: RD Eno, Gary Gulka, Peg Elmer Hough, Chris Duff, Chris Tormey, Roland Payne, Jr.

Next Meeting: March 4 , 6:30 pm

Meeting notes of January 14 approved as written.

Public Comment

None

Updates – Community Development Block Grant and Cabot Garage Relocation

Gary provided the following written updates on these projects:

Flood Mitigation Updates – February 2026

CDBG-DR Grant – North Tributary

Prior to receiving the \$1.25 million grant, we need to conduct an archeological resource assessment (ARA) and an Environmental Review (ER). RFPs for this work to be done by contractors were sent out, proposals were received and reviewed and contracts are being drafted. The initial cost for the Environmental Review is \$7500 and about \$3500 for the ARA. Both projects could require additional work that would add to the cost. We budgeted \$15,000 in the grant for this work.

Working with SLR Consulting to develop a scope of work for the first phase of the project which is final engineering and design, as well as bid and construction services. Then a RFP will be issued for this work.

I am currently working with our Town Treasurer on the administrative aspects (certification forms) that are required.

Cabot Garage Relocation

Last week the Cabot Garage submitted a proposal to relocate the business in part of the Willey Building parking lot. It would eliminate parking spaces, would eliminate the need for excavation and location of the playground. The Select Board voted to go forward with further evaluation of this site in lieu of the Elm Street property. Their concern is that any site development in this area does not decrease the amount of parking spaces currently

available. I am working with DuBois & King to modify the draft contract to include this site along with the Creamery property on Whittier Hill Rd.

Floodplain Restoration

On January 26, I met with a number of state and USDA folks (including CREP) who have an interest in floodplain and habitat restoration on the large meadow that is part of the Guzman property. This interest came about after USDA was visiting another property in Cabot. We currently have verbal agreement from Mr. Guzman to add a 100 foot vegetated buffer along the Winooski River that courses the meadow (over 3 acres). After further evaluation of flood storage potential and what would be needed to make the area more accessible to its floodplain, there may be an interest in making a proposal to Mr. Guzman to allow this to happen. This area also has ecological value (wood turtle habitat) in addition to flood storage. The idea is to present a proposal that would clearly explain the project and its flood mitigation and ecological benefits, potential payments to the landowner, and ways in which the area would be changed. I indicated that I would serve as the primary contact with Mr. Guzman should a proposal be developed.

Other Discussion

RD raised the issue of next steps after the D&K relocation study is completed and there is further definition of the preferred site and development costs. It was agreed that there will need to be an effort to define the financial obligations and options of the Cabot Garage owner and the town. If the choice is to proceed with town-owned property, subdivision, and transfer of ownership, there will need to be a town vote. In the interim, we will continue to be looking for grant funding for the flood mitigation project.

Gary and RD plan to have further discussions with Mr. Glinka about the flood mitigation efforts along the south tributary, Lyford Brook, on his property. We will eventually need an easement for stream work and stream bank stabilization as outlined in the SLR preliminary engineering plans if we receive funding to undertake the project. Permission has not been granted to do feasibility studies for debris racks and we need to further discuss and understand landowner concerns about pursuing this option. RD will share his correspondence in 2024 with Mr. Glinka regarding site access permission.