

**Conservation Committee  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2017**

Present: Cedric Alexander, Ken Denton, Gary Gulka, Chuck Marian, Chris Duff

Next Meeting: **November 13, 2017, 7:00 PM**

Agenda approved with no changes.

Minutes of May 22 approved with no changes.

Public Comment

None

Updates

Another season of water quality was completed on September 5. Full results are not yet available. It was noted that there was one high reading for fecal coliform (above standard) at Larry's ballfield.

Sawmill Dam removal: Agency of Commerce and Community Development issued an Early Notice and Public Review for Activity in a Floodway and Adjacent to a Wetland for the dam removal project. As an activity proposed and funded under U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (and administered by the Vermont Community Development Program), a public review and comment process is beginning - starting with comments specific to the floodway and wetland. The sawmill dam site is about 1.7 acres and there is a wetland of 1.14 acres on the east side of the river which could potentially be impacted by dam removal. There will be a separate public notice period when an Environmental Review Record is finalized that will solicit comments on the potential impacts of the project more generally. The Conservation Committee will not submit any comments at this point but will consider comments on the future public notice.

Molly's Falls Pond State Park: Gary will contact Susan Bulmer of Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation to see if she can attend the November meeting to provide an update on plans for the park. We will also invite the Marshfield Conservation Commission and possibly include a discussion of collaboration between Cabot and Marshfield.

Conservation Speaker Series:

There was a presentation on weather forecasting in June by Jason Shafer of Lyndon State College. Unfortunately it was sparsely attended.

PLACE Program - Gary will follow up with Walter Poleman of UVM who had been invited to speak on the PLACE Program that involves public presentations on the town's physical landscape, cultural landscape, and ecological landscape. Gary will see if he can attend the November meeting or meet with us at some other time.

It was suggested we contact Stephen Long to talk about hurricanes.

We will continue discussing and planning for the speaker series, looking for ways to create a true series of presentations and also work on ways to better publicize to increase attendance. Gary will try to attend the annual conference of the Association of Conservation Commissions later this month for ideas on this.

#### Project Planning for Remainder of Year

It was agreed that we should schedule a field trip in October to visit the Sawmill Dam site and the Cabot Town Forest.

Gary will report out on any project ideas from the annual Conservation Commission conference.

Next year we will plan on doing at least one bird walk during the spring.

#### Budget

There is about \$196 remaining in the Conservation Committee budget. Gary will get a more full accounting of expenditures from the Town Clerk.

It was pointed out that we will need to request an article on the town warning for an annual contribution to the Town's Conservation Fund. No article appeared last year and no funding was allocated.

Submitted by Gary Gulka 9/12/17