**The Greater Cabot Working Landscape Network** (WLN) is a diverse group of community members from Cabot and neighboring towns who are enthusiastic about maintaining our working landscape.

We seek to develop, support, and promote the sustainability of the working landscape in the greater Cabot area through networking, cooperating and asset sharing. We aim to support farms, food businesses, forestry, farm-to-school efforts, and more.

In September of 2012, the CCA facilitated the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) **Community Visit** in Cabot. The top three priorities selected were:

· Develop a Cabot Agricultural Network

· Develop a Community Arts Center

· Improve Community Communications

In 2013, the Cabot Agricultural Network held its first meeting and began reaching out to all those who participate in agriculture, forestry, energy, and other business activities, to get a better idea of the challenges and needs of the working landscape trades. The two needs that stood out were marketing assistance and closer cooperation between businesses.

In 2016, the group changed its name to the Greater Cabot Working Landscape Network and include surrounding towns and people who do other working lands endeavors, like forestry – but it’s main goal is supporting local farmers and businesses by educating local citizens about sustainable agriculture, food, and community.

Accomplishments of the WLN include:

Running a Youth Education Program to help youth develop an appreciation for and knowledge of the working landscape. Informal workshops we hosted included Snacking through the Seasons, Growing Rice in Cabot and Goat Husbandry.

Hosting Conversations from the Working Landscape – a series of presentations bringing business leaders from the greater Cabot area to share their experiences and knowledge. Presenters included Fat Toad Farm, Farmers to You, The Cellars at Jasper Hill, Kingdom Creamery and Crooked Brook Farm.

Starting a pollinator initiative to make Cabot a pollinator-friendly place. Our focus was to promote and support the working landscape by supporting pollinator populations which we did by hosting a speaker series and educational campaign. We also proposed and help pass a nonbinding resolution at town meeting to make the town a pollinator-friendly community.

With the onset of COVID-19, the WLN refocused its efforts to connecting people to their local food system.

To support this interest in local food, the WLN collaborated with the Economic Development Work Group to create the Cabot Harvest Hub – an online market for local food and artisan goods. After a successful pilot project in the summer of 2021, we transitioned this project to another Cabot not-for-profit, Neighbors in Action, so that all local food security initiatives resided with one organization.

The WLN hopes to expand activities to include sustainable energy development and other activities related to the working landscape.

**How you can be involved**

Cabot depends on resident-volunteers to make good things happen. Your enthusiasm, passion, dedication, and time are among the greatest assets in Cabot. Please consider joining the Greater Cabot Working Landscape Network to build an even more sustainable agricultural and culturally rich community.

Contact info@cabotvermont.org or simply attend our monthly meetings that you will find announced on Front Porch Forum and posted on the FPF calendar.

The Greater Cabot Working Landscape Network is a program of the Cabot Community Association.