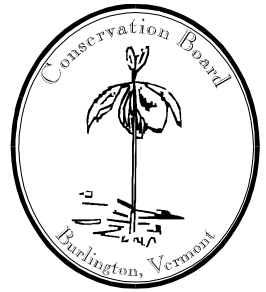


## Burlington Conservation Board

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Scott Mapes  
Don Meals  
Jeff Severson  
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Damon Lane  
Zoe Richards  
Stephanie Young*



## Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 30, 2014 – 5:30 pm  
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level  
149 Church Street

### Attendance

- **Board Members:** Scott Mapes (SM), Matt Moore (MM), Miles Waite (MW), Don Meals (DM), Will Flender (WF), Stephanie Young (SY), Damon Lane (DL)
- **Absent:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Jeff Severson (JS)
- **Public:** Josh Kendrick, Daniel Baker, Margot Halpin (Sustainability Tools), Frank von Turkovich (South Forty Solar), Brian Dunkiel, Betsy Kaplan (8 College St), Karen Bates (Watershed Improvement)
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning), Jen Francis, Jesse Bridges (Parks & Recreation)

WF, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### Minutes of June 2, 2014

A MOTION was made by DM and SECONDED by SY:

Approve as written.

Vote: 4-0-1

### Update & Discussion

#### 1. Sustainability Tools for Assessing & Rating (STAR) Communities

Josh Kendrick, Daniel Baker, Margot Halpin (interns) appeared for this item.

Margot Halpin said the STAR program is a national rating system. It include 500+ data points in 7 categories for assessment. She will be coming to the Board to ask about data.

Jen Francis will make the initial contact. Interns will follow up with date.

MW asked about what kind of data may be needed. Ms. Halpin said most as related to natural systems. Its qualitative data relative to what the city is engaged in. Josh Kendrick said once all of the date is collected, a rating will be issued from 1-5 stars. DM, would you be willing to tell the Board what the results are? Daniel Baker said yes.

MM & SM appeared.

WF asked if the process is yearly. Ms. Halpern said that it is. The ratings are updated yearly.

### Board Comment

DM mentioned the Shoreland Protection Act info sheet included in the packet. He and SG attended an informational meeting about it last month. SG noted the July 1, 2014 date of effect and the city's intent to pursue delegation. SM mentioned the city's 250' buffer is from 100' elevation and is therefore more expansive than the state's 250' buffer from 95.5'. MM mentioned the number of post-flood seawall and

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shoreline stabilization projects. Many did not trigger clearing or additional land disturbance. SM said that the projects would likely not have been problematic under the Shoreland Protection Act.

### **Public Comment**

Frank von Turkovich attended in light of the South Forty Solar agenda item. MM said the item is a continuation of a work session from the prior meeting. The Board reflected on the process so far and were updated on the status of the application. The 248 application had not yet been submitted. Mr. von Turkovich said it's still not been submitted. MM said there was no specific outline for discussion. It was fairly open ended. No action was taken or will be taken tonight. Mr. von Turkovich said that he could provide the Board with an update tonight. MM said that would be helpful. Mr. von Turkovich said the project is still alive, but the 248 application has not been submitted. There are many factors that affect this project that he is dealing with. Some additional wetland info will be provided to the state in the next week. Some of it is self-generated, and some is in response to input so far. This site is unique in Burlington. There are not many similar locations within the city that could host a solar project of this size. If the project moves ahead, there will be additional items to resolve like stormwater.

MM asked about the wetlands permit application. Mr. von Turkovich said he's decided to pull some of the solar panels away from the wetlands. This info will be submitted to ANR. There have been ongoing talks about landscaping buffers with neighbors along Sunset Cliff Rd. Stormwater discussions with Strathmore continue. MW asked about – Brian Dunkiel interjected to oppose. Mr. von Turkovich agreed to speak with MW afterward. MM asked about timelines. Mr. von Turkovich said that none of the revisions constitute a whole new project. Within the next few weeks, it should be back on track. MM said that outstanding issues were fairly technical in nature. Are these details being reviewed? Mr. von Turkovich said that things like cover type on the land are being considered. The results will be transparent.

MM asked if Board members had additional questions. None. Mr. von Turkovich said he'd be happy to discuss further at a future meeting. Brian Dunkiel said a working session relative to the wetlands application would be better had once all of the information has been provided.

SM said it makes sense, if new information has been provided, to look at the completed information. WF said he thought they were on hold pending issuance of the wetland permit application. DM said the Board would welcome another discussion to address the new wetlands information. MM said we could put this item on the August 4 agenda.

### **Open Space Subcommittee**

1. 28 Archibald St

Jesse Bridges appeared. Defer to after 8 College Street.

Jesse Bridges addressed this item. We've got a P&S, but the phase II requires remediation. We are looking at the possibility of spot remediation. We are requesting use of acquisition funds for this risk assessment. The city has long wished to acquire this site for use as a community garden. If it is not acquired, it will likely be developed.

MW said the \$6K cost estimate looks reasonable. MM noted that it has a not-to-exceed number.

A MOTION was made by WF and SECONDED by MW:

Approve the requested expenditure

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried

### **Project Review**

1. **14-1181CU/CU: 8 College Street (Bikepath) (Multiple Zones, Wards 3, 5, & 7) Parks & Recreation**

Bike path rehabilitation, including phase 1 from Perkins Pier to North Beach. Also, improvements to Waterfront Park, including replacement lighting, potable water improvements, boardwalk renovation, and landscaping improvements.

Jesse Bridges, Jen Francis, Brian Dunkiel, and Betsy Kaplan appeared.

Jesse Bridges recapped the overview provided at the prior BCB meeting. The project runs from Perkins Pier through the Urban Reserve. Parts of the project go through public right-of-way, and others do not. He noted the realignment through the urban reserve. He said that some spot treatments for shoreline stabilization will be done. They are working with VT DEC relative to soils management. No net new impervious surface is proposed. There will probably be a net reduction. DL asked if the existing path will remain. Jesse said it will be removed pending soil tests. MM asked about sections within the ROW versus not. SG said most of the path not in the ROW is in the Urban Reserve, Waterfront Park, and a small section by the wastewater treatment plant. WF asked if the dirt road to the snow storage site will be adjusted as part of WAN. Mr. Bridges said it's included in the project design.

MW noted the Shoreland Protection Act would affect the UR section of work. Mr. Bridges said that not much has changed since last month's meeting except that the project details are now included in a permit

A MOTION was made by WF seconded by MW

Support the project as proposed.

Discussion: MM had questions about the UR. What's being relocated and where?

Mr. Bridges noted the limited construction work through the silver lindens to save these trees. The dirt access road will be replaced with a grass-crete paver system. The realigned bike path will run parallel with the revamped access road. The cross path will be removed. SM, what will happen with the stormwater runoff? Mr. Bridges, it will be directed into the access road infiltration system. There will be no impact on the lake in terms of stormwater. A small section of grass-crete will be installed by the HC access by the put-in. The dog park in the UR will be made smaller. The path will be realigned closer to the lakeshore. SM asked about Lake Street. Mr. Bridges said it would be formalized up to the line with the interim development area. It will be maintained as it in the UR. MM, how wide? Mr. Bridges, 11" with 2' gravel shoulders. It will connect back into the existing path by Texaco beach. Mr. Bridges pointed out a would-be tie in with the Burlington College footpath.

MM said he's concerned about much of the path through the UR. There is an existing path along the lakeshore berm. Will the path be right on this footpath? Mr. Bridges, no, it will be next to the footpath. MW, was there consideration to leave the path through the UR where it is? Mr. Bridges, yes, there was such conversation during the public comment period, but most public comment has been in support of the realignment.

DL clarified the de-pavement versus the shoreline protection symbology. SM asked about the proposed spot treatment along the shoreline. Mr. Bridges said that the shoreline work would involve some vegetation and some armoring. It is not included in this application. Separate application will be filed for review.

MM said it's a cool spot that could use some help relative to resource protection. It may be worthwhile to retain some of the existing features such as the oil bollards. Mr. Bridges said that this bike path project will not alter these items. He went on to say that future planning efforts will look towards improved public accessibility in this area. MM said that he does not like the realigned bike path in this section. It would be better in its present location. He supports the recent efforts to clear out the underbrush to improve visibility and access to the lake.

Vote: 6-1-0 (MM opposed), motion carried

## **Update & Discussion (Cont.)**

### **2. Continued discussion to identify potential watershed improvement projects**

Karen Bates appeared.

Karen Bates noted that Burlington submitted for permeable sidewalks and for a cistern system to hold onto runoff prior to discharge into the city's combined system.

Ms. Bates said areas eligible for watershed improvement grants are within the city's combined sewer system. Selected sites should be able to attenuate stormwater onsite. Can water be collected and used for irrigation or other uses? Are areas of the worst overflows obvious? WF asked about Edmunds. Ms. Bates said that the site was found to be ineligible. It needs to reduce sediment and phosphorous. The grant cannot be used to help fulfil a permit requirement. The monies are available to go above and beyond permit requirements. SM said that 70% of downtown Burlington connects to the combined system. Ms. Bates said that compliance with the NPDES permit needs to be demonstrated. SM suggested that projects with city stormwater permit requirements and not state stormwater permit requirements are not precluded. Ms. Bates noted that grants cannot go to private parties. It must be through the city or the Board or similar entity. The property/project itself can be privately held. DL asked about eligibility of template projects to be implemented throughout the city. Ms. Bates said such an idea could be a really good project. DL said that his street has no catch basins. Something like a bump-out project could improve runoff management within his neighborhood. Ms. Bates said money could be provided to support community discussion about how and where. Another round of grant funding would likely be needed to follow up with implementation. Ms. Bates mentioned C Street in Seattle as a complete street that includes comprehensive stormwater management.

MM said Megan Moir would be a good point of contact for projects along these lines. DL asked about frequency of grant windows. Ms. Bates said there are two per year. SM said he's still considering the Edmunds School project.

### **3. South Forty Solar, LLC**

See public input.

### **Annual Organizational Meeting**

A MOTION was made by DM and SECONDED by MW:

Reelect existing slate of officers

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.