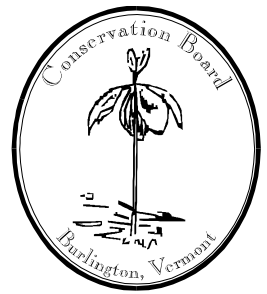


Burlington Conservation Board Open Space Subcommittee

149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401
<http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/planning/>
Telephone: (802) 865-7189
(802) 865-7195 (FAX)

Matt Moore
Will Flender
Jeff Severson
Zoe Richards



Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 2, 2015 – 5:45 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Subcommittee Members:** Jeff Severson (JS), Matt Moore (MM) Will Flender (WF), Zoe Richards (ZR)
- **Absent:**
- **Public:** Harris Roen, Charles Simpson, Mary Manghie, Patrick Johnson, Mary Twitchell, Glenn Eames, Bill Stuno, Sharon Bushor
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning) Dan Cahill, Jesse Bridges (Parks & Recreation)

Public Comment

Charles Simpson spoke and handed out letter from Save Open Space Burlington. Looking to make Burlington College land public.

Glenn Eames spoke. Lack of public process around this property. Tonight is a chance to put the breaks on accelerated development of this property. Deserves pretty major public scrutiny.

Mary Mahghie, spoke in favor of conservation of the property.

Mary Twitchell, there may be ways we can go about this to meet everyone's needs. Noted 700 units on 30 acres of land. Outrageous. Limit the housing piece to parcel of land along North Avenue. Perhaps conserve the property like what was done with the Urban Reserve.

Patrick Johnson, mentioned potential traffic impacts associated with development of the property. Mentioned potential stormwater impacts to the lake. We have insufficient infrastructure to support the scale of development possible.

Harris Roen, speaking with the right people tonight about conservation of the property. He encourages the Board and Dan Cahill to be right out front in conserving this property.

Bill Stuno, has spoken with Burlington College faculty. They are not sure the college will survive. This is an opportunity to act now rather than to wait and see what the outcome is.

MM said this is good that your group is here tonight to advocate. The Conservation Board is on your side. The Board has been interested in conserving part of the property. MM said he'll step back from involvement in the effort now due to potential work between his employer and Eric Farrell.

Jesse Bridges noted that we've been engaged in this process. Been involved with VLT. The city is committed to having a number of parties involved, including public process, before the permitting stage. Community gardens, trail connection, sensitivity around the bluffs and connections to the Urban Reserve.

Sharon Bushor, the conservation legacy fund was created to be available for a situation such as this. If there is something she can do to facilitate, she is happy to help. Let's hope that we can do something to

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retain the most important areas. She suggested that folks work to keep the topic alive and on the City Council's radar.

WF noted that projects with both housing and conservation are rare in front of VHCB. This could be one of those cases.

ZR recommended that folks let the Mayor's Office know that they want to have a public process around this property.

WF supported the use of a significant portion of the Legacy Fund in a conservation effort for this property.

Dan Cahill said we need to be careful and thoughtful about leveraging the fund. Let's use the resource as effectively as possible.

Acquisition Updates

Dan Cahill noted the second round effort with McKenzie has been denied by the NPS. There is promise to pursue the CRP program associated with the state's new shoreland program.

Stewardship Updates

Dan Cahill has been involved in discussions with Nick Warner, the new director of the WVPD. Hosting a full moon cross country ski this week.

Effort to put together an Arthur Park management plan is underway.

Other Business

ZR and SG mentioned the wildlife tracking project with UVM graduate students. It will focus on the Lone Rock Point/Arms property and the Intervale as bisected by North Avenue. WF suggested looking at the Burlington College property too.