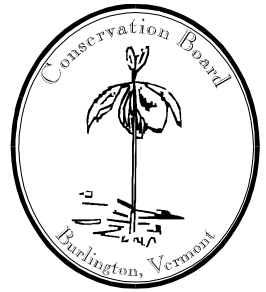


Burlington Conservation Board

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

*Matt Moore, Chair
Will Flender, Vice Chair
Scott Mapes
Don Meals
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
Damon Lane
Zoe Richards
Stephanie Young*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 1, 2017 – 5:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Jeff Severson (JS), Stephanie Young (SY), Matt Moore (MM), Miles Waite (MW), Scott Mapes (SM),
- **Absent:** Don Meals (DM), Damon Lane (DL), Will Flender (WF)
- **Public:** None
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning), Jenna Calvi (DPW), Dan Cahill (Parks & Rec)

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

Minutes

Minutes of April 3, 2017

JS noted on pg. 2, 5th paragraph from the bottom, "JS" should be "SM."

A MOTION made by MW and SECONDED by SM:

Accept the minutes of April 3, 2017 as corrected.

Vote: 6-0-0

Board Comment

MM noted an upcoming conference relating to soil contaminants in VT. MW elaborated. It's being hosted by VT Environmental Consortium and VT DEC. New state rules and guidelines are underway. It is May 25 at VT Technical College.

ZR mentioned a conference coming up at Burke related to economic benefits of trails.

Public comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

1. Conservation Legacy Fund pre-application

MM noted the meeting and discussion of the Elks property. Dan Cahill said that there have been ongoing discussions with Elks and stakeholders of surrounding properties talking about the Arms forest generally - speaking of it as a contiguous forest rather than parcel-by-parcel. The Elks are looking to take on a capital funding campaign. Conservation may be part of the mix. Mr. Cahill noted the presence of trails within the forest across property lines. Fellowship of the Wheel has engaged in the discussions in light of the bike use of the trails. A pre-acquisition request of BCLF monies is likely if conservation efforts are pursued. MM said that with the preliminary approval in place, the BCLF would cover a portion of the expenses. ZR said she'd like to get to a place where we have defined priorities. There was discussion as to staff time and whether that's an expense that should be covered. MM said a budget would be put together in the coming month. ZR pointed out that WVPD does not request expenses for staff time. MM

The programs and services of the Dept. of Planning and Zoning are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information call 865-7188 (865-7142 TTY).

said he wants to be supportive and make things happen. MW, are we trying to streamline things? MM, yes. He'd rather have Dan Cahill spend time speaking to stakeholders than have him here requesting support at every step. SM, he thinks the Board is flexible enough to do this. MM said he's really motivated to pursue this trails initiative. We should have already had the conversations with the various stakeholders. MW said that a set amount of money could be set aside within the fund for pre-acquisition monies. ZR asked if the pre-acquisition monies should be limited to use by Parks & Rec. JS said that priority areas should benefit from a more streamlined process. ZR said we should set our priorities at our next meeting. Mr. Cahill said this all leads back to improved strategic planning.

JS said he had some mixed feelings about the last funding request from LCLT. It resulted in providing funding for activities even if nothing is ultimately conserved. This should not set precedent; we should limit doing so again in the future. MM agreed that we should be more strategic as to how the monies are used.

Mr. Cahill said that staff reports providing background and explanation would be helpful.

JS said of the entire fund, we need to figure out how much should be used for staff beyond that which pays for the Land Steward position.

MM, if anyone else wants to come to the open space subcommittee meetings, they are welcome to.

ZR pointed out that the BCLF is seed money for conservation.

Update & Discussion

1. Conservation News Letter

MM noted that DL wrote a piece recently. Mr. Cahill said that a sign-up will be put together. It reaches out two years. He'll be asking Board members to write pieces for the newsletter. SY said she'd do something for July.

2. Conservation trails initiative

ZR said that a resolution has been drafted for Council action in June. Richard Dean will sponsor the resolution. MM said he and ZR have meet with Parks & Rec and city councilors to provide context and rationale. MM said that the item will be up for discussion with the Parks Commission tomorrow night. ZR said that John Bossange has been an emerging partner in conservation efforts. It's great that he's on the Parks Commission. Mr. Cahill said that he's involved with a number of stakeholders. SY asked about the walk/bike master plan. ZR, it's really a streetscape plan. It's not that relevant to what we're looking to do with this trails initiative. As we work to improve trails, we need to manage them as cohesive places with user experience in mind. MW, how will folks know this is going on? Mr. Cahill said that it will be in the next conservation newsletter. JS, maybe there should be a press release. ZR mentioned the need to host a summit of property owners and other stakeholders. Doing so is key to move ahead on the ground. MM pointed out the role of the BCLF in securing lands and easements to improve connectivity in the city's trails network. SM said that it's important in providing momentum for the effort. MM solicited suggestions for revisions to the draft resolution. SY suggested providing a title to the resolution. SY also suggested relocation of the summit item so it does not come across as the primary focus on the resolution. Mr. Cahill suggested getting some folks to speak publicly in support of the resolution at the City Council meeting. SM said he'd review the resolution and provide recommendations.

3. Stormwater/EPSC

SG provided overview of the progression of stormwater conditions and standards. SM gave further background. He's observed that some things are not happening at some project sites. He noted at Eagles Landing that vehicles are parking on the green belt and impacting it. Jenna Calvi said she had received a couple of complaints. SM said he spoke with John Caulo about the project. The problem has been remedied, but there was about a 1 week gap wherein the site was not stabilized. SM thought there were still standing zoning conditions related to stormwater and EPSC. He also noted 1 Burlington Square. He said that the site lacks common BMP's. The approved project plans demonstrate them, but they've not been put in place. Ms. Calvi said that standard conditions won't solve the problem. Commonly, site inspections turn up problems. Inspections are key, and she's trying to get to more of them. SM asked if

there's a protocol that problems can be brought to the project engineer and/or contractor. Ms. Calvi said the normal course of action is to arrive onsite unannounced and do an inspection. Point out problems and note that correction is needed within a set period of time. She said that she or Greg Johnson are the ones to contact for complaints. MM asked about project approvals. Ms. Calvi said that the project plans are reviewed for compliance. Plan sheets articulate the conditions. SM said that the conditions that the Board articulated are not verbatim on the engineer's plans. Ms. Calvi said she's happy to implement conditions that the BCB wants to see. She also said she's making a practice of holding off on final approval until reviewed by Conservation Board and DRB in the event recommendations are made. SM said that if we're specifically concerned about something in a project, we need to make it part of our approval. MM, what if we want to ensure that something is written into the permit? Ms. Calvi, if there are project specific conditions, send them to her.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.