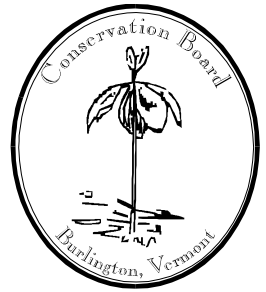


Burlington Conservation Board

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*Matt Moore, Chair
Scott Mapes
Don Meals
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
Ellen Kujawa
Zoe Richards
Stephanie Young
Sean Beckett*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 7, 2017 – 5:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Stephanie Young (SY), Miles Waite (MW), Don Meals (DM), Ellen Kujawa (EK), Jeff Severson (JS), Sean Beckett (SM)
- **Absent:** Matt Moore (MM), Scott Mapes (SM)
- **Public:** John Shappy, Sr., John Shappy, II (3163 North Ave)
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin, Ryan Morrison (Planning & Zoning), Dan Cahill (Parks & Rec), Jenna Calvi (DPW – Stormwater)

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

Annual Organizational Meeting

Defer to later in the meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of July 10, 2017 meeting.

ZR corrected the spelling of Stephanie Lahar's name on pg. 3.

A MOTION was made by MW and SECONDED by EK

Approve the minutes as amended.

Vote: 5-0-1, motion carried.

Board Comment

Board members introduced themselves to new member, Sean Beckett.

Public comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

Enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate transaction at 5:40 PM.

Exit executive session at 5:59

The Board requested for next time an update on the funding situation for the 12-acre parcel at the former Burlington College property.

Update & Discussion

1. Jenna Calvi and BTV BLUE program

Jenna Calvi appeared on behalf of this item.

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).

Ms. Calvi said the program may be extended through another summer if the target of 11,000 sf disconnected area is not met.

The program was originally applied for by Megan Moir. It offers rebates to help offset costs associated with disconnection from the combined sewer system. She mentioned that Board member DM was the first applicant to utilize the program. She encouraged others to get the word out about the program.

The program is new, and administration of it is not perfect yet. It's a great example of a beneficial partnership among parties with real community benefit. We hope to maintain this program with city funding into the future.

DM said that he found the weblinks to be confusing. Have they been improved? Ms. Calvi, the webpage has been revised and expanded to include a step-by-step guide. DM, thinks the program would be improved if there was a set of design criteria for projects to meet in order to be eligible for the program funding. The city ought to think about some degree of credit on the residential stormwater fee. Even if only symbolic, he thinks there should be some break on his stormwater fee. Ms. Calvi, there's been ongoing discussion of water rate increases. In that discussion, there has been consideration of how to provide credit to folks who want to do the right thing relative to stormwater management. Fee relief is on the radar.

ZR, the goal is to lessen inputs to the combined system. Helping people to understand the goal is important. She suggests making a better connection between the desired actions and benefits to the lake.

DM said that he underwent a fairly comprehensive evaluation of his property.

SY, it would be cool to have a booth at Summervale or other local event to increase public exposure.

Ms. Calvi agreed that making a positive statement about the effects of the desired changes would be helpful.

JS noted that it's not just one project that will make the big change, it is the accumulation of many smaller ones.

Ms. Calvi mentioned the standard EPSC conditions. What they address is captured in the EPSC permits. There is a need for improved field inspections and enforcement. She noted the Pine & Flynn construction site. The problems there don't relate to forms. There have been 4 site inspections to that site. There has been persistent under-performance by the contractor. Continuing to improve inspection protocols and exercising enforcement authority under Chapter 26.

2. Bike Path reconstruction – rare plants protection update

Dan Cahill appeared on behalf of this item.

Mr. Cahill said that the most significant finding is that the Northshore pause place has the most potential for impact to rare plants. That will not be constructed for a couple of years. Construction will be guided by protective measures for the rare plants.

DM, the protective measures speak to protecting the plants in place, rather than move them. Mr. Cahill, yes.

SB, what are the species affected at the pause place? Mr. Cahill, it's a variety of beach grasses and spiked rushes.

JS, how did the initial phases of the bike path improvements go relative to rare plants protection? He is hoping to get a summary of how that went. SG said that such report could be provided. JS, such as within the Urban Reserve. He'd like to see a summary of how it was handled.

DM, this issue made JS think how did we do with managing RTE protections for past work? MW, maybe there is already a report. JS said that former Parks Director, Jesse Bridges, said that VHCB is on top of that.

Mr. Cahill, is there anything different that you'd like to see in the report that's not in the report provided tonight. DM, only that noting actual species would be helpful.

JS said that approved plans sometimes do not translate into onsite practices that can lead to impacts to protected species.

3. Conservation trails initiative

ZR said that the working group has continued to meet. We are aiming to have a summit in October, hopefully at Rock Point to get folks informed and excited to move ahead with the effort. We are presently working to select a facilitator to help the summit and related process move along.

SY, do you need to raise money to pay for the facilitator? ZR, maybe. We have some funding available, \$5K though Councilor Dean.

SY mentioned the Parks Foundation as a potential partner and funding source. DM mentioned that the Board had a small budget some years ago. Perhaps we should have that to help with items like this.

Project Review

- 1. 17-1150CA/CU; 3163 North Ave (Ward 7N,WRL) John Shappy**
Concrete pad and deck within lakeshore and wetland buffer

John Shappy Sr. and II appeared on behalf of this item.

SG overviewed the project. The application amounts to a parking pad and deck that are already in place but do not yet have a zoning permit. No new work is included in this proposal. The site is located within the 100' city wetland buffer and is also within the lakeshore buffer.

John Shappy II said that the work is there and that its been done over time. He pointed to the letter from the State of Vermont asserting that it's out of their 50' wetland buffer.

JS, is there septic? John Shappy II, no. Shappy Sr., the trailer is left there year-round.

MW noted the state letter is helpful.

JS, everything within the area is already a lawn with some trailers. It does not project closer to the lake than development on other nearby properties.

JS said that we should be clear that we're making a recommendation based on what's there, not what might be done in the future. SG said that's what the application is for.

A MOTION was made by JS and SECODED by MW:

Recommend project approval to the DRB as is.

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried.

Annual Organizational Meeting (cont.)

DM, we don't know if the present Chair is interested in continuing. He is not here tonight.

ZR, we did discuss outlining the roles of the chair and other positions. Is rotating the chair a good idea?

JS, no one else but MM has expressed an interest since Harris left. He wants to hear from the present chair.

DM, the chair of the CCRPC serves a 2-year term. Following that, the vice-chair becomes chair. Duties of the chair include setting the meeting agenda with staff and running the meeting. Board correspondence comes from the chair. Has to present the annual report to the City Council.

ZR, how do we set our agendas, whether stormwater or energy efficiency? SG noted the Board's jurisdictional statement. DM, in past years we've set priorities for the coming year. SY, we should set those at our organizational meeting.

JS, if MM is no longer interested, he'd recommend SY. SY said her plate is presently pretty full with other volunteer roles. SY said she thinks ZR would be good.

JS, MM every year has reached out to the rest of the board as to their interest in chairing the board. It's not a contentious thing.

MW said he is open to the possibility of being chair.

DM, perhaps we should codify chair terms while we are at it. Make it an agenda item. Should we require rotation of the chair's position?

Project Review (cont.)

2. 18-0005CA/CU; 62 Sunset Cliff Rd (Ward 4N, WRL) 62 Sunset Cliff Realty
Additions to a single family residence

The applicant was not present. Ryan Morrison provided an overview of the project.

SB expressed concern about the possibility of heavy equipment working lakeside of the existing house, and how it may cause some instability.

A MOTION was made by MW and SECONDED by JS:

Recommend project approval as is to the DRB with the condition that excavation equipment should stay out of the area between the building and the lakeshore to the greatest extent possible.

Vote: 7-0-0, motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.