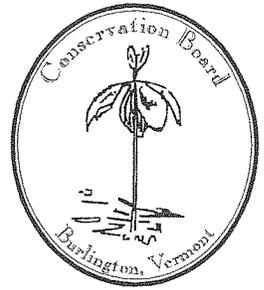


Burlington Conservation Board

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*Matt Moore, Chair
Will Flender, Vice Chair
Scott Mapes
Don Meals
Jeff Severson
Miles Waite
Damon Lane
Doug Morin*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 5, 2012 – 5:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Matt Moore (MM), Miles Waite (MW), Doug Morin (DFM), Damon Lane (DL), Jeff Severson (JS), Scott Mapes (SM)
- **Absent:** Don Meals (DM), Will Flender (WF)
- **Public:** Chris (UVM student)
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning), Nick Warner (Community and Economic Development Office), Dan Cahill (Parks & Recreation), Jen Francis (Parks & Recreation)

MM, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes

Minutes of October 1, 2012

A MOTION was made by MW and SECONDED by DFM:

Accept the minutes of October 1 as written.

Vote: 4-0-2

Board Comment

None.

Public Comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

MM stated that there was an Urban Reserve meeting earlier today before our regular meeting. He'll send out a summary of the meeting.

Dan Cahill noted that he's working on conservation education with Burlington Schools.

Project Review

1. 13-0289CA/MA: 601 Lake St (UR, Ward 3) City of Burlington & LCT
Temporary staging project on the Urban Reserve

Nick Warner appeared on behalf of this item.

JS disclosed that LCT real estate arm has worked with Jeff in the past. No one objected to his participation.

Nick Warner said this location is the only viable deep water access for the downtown waterfront. He noted the hoisting of the Moonlight Lady out of the lake later this season. LCT would like to store a barge here

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this winter. LCT understands the risks of vandalism. Nick noted the location on the map. It avoids impacts on green space. Nick also noted the idea of getting a permit for using this area for staging in general, not project specific. For now, he's seeking approval for the barge.

SM said that, in general, for this use there should be a condition that what's brought in is brought out at the end. Leave the site as it was previously. Mr. Warner noted the collection of lease fees for use of the site. The barge storage will be \$600 per month. The lease language contains a restoration clause to leave things the way they are found.

A MOTION was made by MM and SECONDED by MW.

Recommend approval of the project as proposed.

Discussion:

MW felt that individual projects should receive individual reviews. DL concurred. We want to avoid making this a permanent staging area.

Vote: 6-0-0

Update & Discussion

1. Open Space Protection Plan

Discussion of the update progress with Amy Sheldon

Amy Sheldon appeared on behalf of this item.

SG noted what's been done so far: the RPF and consultant selection process, obtaining funding from the CLF, outlining a work plan, the web page, and the public input tool. This effort will include updating the open space inventory and, more importantly, articulating policy goals for what we've got – functional green spaces. Urban agriculture, LID, and green infrastructure. Non-green green spaces (green roofs, pervious pavers). He noted the place of the OSPP within the myriad other plans. He noted the public outreach process (two tiered; initial followed by refinement and then adoption).

MM, how related to Parks Master Plan? Amy Sheldon, that effort is really geared towards active recreational areas. Dan Cahill said that it would be a cohesive master plan for park areas and active recreation within. The OSPP is very different from the Parks Master Plan. There is continuing dialogue between the parties.

Ms. Sheldon asked for Board input about what they think is important for the update. She's interested to know what they see the plan doing. Are there any suggestions for public input?

SM suggested walking/viewing the impacted streams in Burlington. Establish policies for development along the stream corridors. Let's take a look at Burlington's 88 miles of green belt. Its underutilized for stormwater. Develop goals and objectives for protection and utilization of these green belts.

MM sees the plan as a way to steer city policy related to the adequacy of open space within the city and access thereto. It would be helpful to have some kind of analysis about how many people live within ½ mile of a city park. How does that compare nationally with similar sized cities? This could complement the Parks planning process.

Mr. Cahill said we should think about where natural areas and how accessible they are.

MM suggested an open space gap analysis.

DFM, maybe we could evaluate the need for pocket parks in underserved areas. He also noted the importance of addressing invasive species. Where are they?

JS, in terms of larger areas, we've done a good job of identifying the one's we've got. We should also know the natural and/or open space values of remaining open spaces in the city. This knowledge could be very helpful in future acquisition decisions. MW asked what size threshold we should use. JS said he didn't have a size in mind. This may be something that can be clarified as part of the update effort.

MM, ask the questions how much open space do we need? How much money do we need to do it? What is the target level to have available for acquisition of an average open space in Burlington?

SM noted the Barge Canal superfund site. Perhaps there is opportunity for trails within this open space. Discussion of access to the site and various development proposals on the adjacent property. SM noted it's an interesting piece of property with some significant open space potential.

Ms. Sheldon noted the need to distinguish public versus private RCO lands.

Board members noted that the RCO map included Rte. 127 and the Champlain Parkway ROW. These should be deducted from open space analysis. SM noted that there is green along 127. It serves an important function in our transportation network. MW noted that there will be a recreational path along the Champlain Parkway.

Ms. Sheldon said she's aiming to have Ward maps for all of the NPA meetings. She also noted the trails mapping work interns with Parks & Recreation have done. Mr. Cahill said they've got about 30 miles of trails (informal and formal, not including the bike path).

MW, as for the ability to inventory large open space parcels, he asked Ms. Sheldon if she'd create a new database of these. Ms. Sheldon said she's looking to update the original inventory. How far are people from parks? How far are people from natural areas? DL said barriers to access should be considered, such as major roadways separating open spaces from residences. JS, consider access in terms of pedestrian time instead of distance.

Mr. Cahill noted that he's presently taking a GIS course at UVM that should be helpful with this analysis.

JS are there gaps in accessibility to natural areas within the city?

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.