

Burlington Conservation Board

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



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 6, 2013 – 5:30 pm
Planning & Zoning Conference Room – City Hall Lower Level
149 Church Street

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Miles Waite (MW), Damon Lane (DL), Don Meals (DM), Zoe Richards (ZR), Matt Moore (MM), Jeff Severson (JS)
- **Absent:** Scott Mapes (SM), Will Flender (WF)
- **Public:** Bill Charash (3166 & 3169 North Ave)
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin (Planning & Zoning)

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

Minutes

Minutes of April 1, 2013

MM noted on pg. 1 that he should have been listed as absent.

A MOTION was made by DM and SECONDED by MW

Accept the minutes of April 1 as corrected.

Vote: 5-0-1

Board Comment

MW asked if any Board members went to the UVM student Urban Reserve presentation.

JS said he attended. There were lots of students, and the presentation was excellent. ZR attended as well and handed out website info to the Board.

JS noted the underwater aspect of the presentation. The lake trout spawning areas depicted in the presentation contained substrate remarkably similar to that along the Urban Reserve. ZR noted that all of the Lake Trout in Lake Champlain are stocked. They spawn, hatch, and then disappear.

JS said that the presentation contained photos from the 1950s showing the build-out of Texaco beach. Much of the fill was placed then.

DL mentioned that some 40% of the Urban Reserve is presently used in some way or another.

MM said he'd like to see if this information can be considered during the PIAP process.

JS said that he requested the agenda item to take about natural resource protection during the Waterfront North/bike path improvement work. MW said the bike path work is at the design proposal stage.

ZR noted that the oil tank wetland is drying out and is choked with phragmites.

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).

JS mentioned that one of the students examined trails throughout the Urban Reserve.

SG provided the Board with an update on the Open Space Protection Plan update. A draft is available for review online. The second round of public outreach will take place this month. Results from that outreach will be used to refine the draft plan. The goal is to have the updated plan adopted this summer.

Public Comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

MM said that there was no meeting today but that Dan Cahill is continuing to work with VNA to acquire the community garden site on Archibald Street. He noted that Parks & Recreation is supportive of pursuing a path easement across the Burlington College property. He noted that the College has a master plan in the works.

Project Review

- 1. 13-0833CA/CU; 3169 North Ave. (WRL, Ward 7) Bill Charash**
Install driveway.
- 2. 13-0942CA/CU; 3166 North Ave. (WRL, Ward 7) Bill Charash**
Demolish and remove two collapsing structures and convert to green space.

Bill Charash appeared on behalf of these two applications.

JS said he's done work for a neighboring property. No one objected to his participation in this review.

SG noted that the two projects are pretty minor in scope but that both involve work within mapped wetland buffers.

MW asked about the purpose of the proposed driveway. Bill Charash responded that he'd like a seasonal spot for his camper. Mr. Charash noted that the wetland was pretty dry last spring and again this year.

DM asked if there would be any site preparation for the driveway. Mr. Charash stated that he'd just put gravel on top of fabric. There will be no excavation.

JS said that the lakeshore wetland polygon may not be accurate. It's the beach.

Mr. Charash said that for the demolition work, debris will be trucked out. Trash from the site will be manually removed. DM asked what would happen to the site. Mr. Charash replied that it would be converted to green space. DM said the site should be seeded and mulched. MW recommended using conservation seed mix. ZR asked how old the buildings are. Mr. Charash didn't know.

JS said that this wetland is a remnant of the northern tail of the Northshore wetland. There are active residences between the driveway and the primary wetland. It is pretty unobtrusive infill development.

MM went through the applicable wetland review criteria. JS said that Northshore is significant for 8 of the 10 functions. The proposed driveway is located away from the Northshore wetland. No significant impact is expected. The demolition work also has no material impact.

DM asked how long the demolition work will take. Mr. Charash replied that it would take 1 day.

A MOTION was made by DM and SECONDED by MW

Recommend project approval with the condition that the site be seeded and mulched immediately upon project completion.

Vote: 6-0-0

Update & Discussion

1. Discussion of threatened & endangered plant management in the Urban Reserve

JS initiated the discussion by showing a map of state endangered, threatened, and uncommon plants in the Urban Reserve. The proposed bike path work would impact some of these plants. How to deal with these impacts has not yet been addressed. Most of the plants have a disturbance related history. The city has an opportunity at this stage to do the work properly. We should not wait until ground-breaking to determine what to do with these plants.

JS asked about the review process. SG said that the bike path work is with the public right-of-way and would, therefore, not require zoning review. The Board should approach Parks & Recreation directly with its concerns.

JS noted plant relocation work that had been done by the city on other recent bike path projects. He's not sure if it has been successful. There needs to be a plan for execution and monitoring. DM said it sounds like we need to know more before commencing the bike path work. JS agreed. MW recommended that an ecological assessment be performed before shovels go in the ground. JS noted that only the plant species that are actually endangered are really hands-off.

The Board agreed to send a letter to Parks & Recreation and copy CEDO.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.