

From: Andrew Simon <sanschagrins@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 05, 2021 1:48 PM

To: Benjamin Traverse <btraverse@burlingtonvt.gov>; Zoe Richards <zrichards@burlingtonvt.gov>; Andrew Montroll <amontroll@burlingtonvt.gov>; Maxwell Tracy <mtracy@burlingtonvt.gov>; Miro Weinberger <miro@burlingtonvt.gov>

Cc: Scott Gustin <SGustin@burlingtonvt.gov>; Joanne Putzier <jputzier@burlingtonvt.gov>; Meagan Tuttle <mtuttle@burlingtonvt.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@burlingtonvt.gov>

Subject: Conserve and Remediate the Pine Street Barge Canal

[WARNING]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

To: Zoe Richards, Chair, Conservation Board; Ben Traverse, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission; Andy Montroll, Chair, Planning Commission; Max Tracy, President, City Council; Miro Weinberger, Mayor

Later today, you will receive, as a separate email, a petition that has been circulating for 2 weeks. As of now (12/5/21), it has so far been signed by close to 300 people. It calls for the **conservation and remediation of the entire Pine Street Barge Canal site**, including the private parcels at 453 and 501 Pine Street. The petition urges you, as deliberative, legislative or executive agents of the city, to recognize the potential of the Barge Canal site for recreation, education and environmental benefit. Instead of promoting parts of the site for profit-oriented development, we want you to see the higher benefits, in particular the potential *contribution to nature-based solutions* to the accelerating climate emergency. We also see the possibility of numerous academic and citizen-science projects focused on *cutting-edge natural, low-impact remediation* of the post-industrial pollutants remaining in the soil and water. The Barge Canal is where we, as a city, can learn how to undo some of the damage that we have caused and, in the process, learn ways to work in partnership with nature to clean up after ourselves.

Building on the land currently for sale could cause migration of dangerous contaminants to the groundwater, the wetlands and to Lake Champlain. It could also pose unacceptable risks for workers and nearby residents. For now, the contaminants are contained thanks in part to the EPA-approved “remedies” but also largely because of the plants, the fungi and the soil’s multitude of creatures who have done their quiet, persistent work in slowly stabilizing and healing that human-impacted land. We believe that, with your support and leadership, we can arrive at a “win-win-win” outcome, for the people, the private landowner and the Earth.

We will present the petition in person during the coming weeks to the Conservation Board, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission, the Planning Commission, the City Council and the Mayor. We ask that, as a first step, you put the conservation of these parcels making up the Pine Street Barge Canal on your agenda. We look forward to making more extensive presentations of this conservation vision to the various city bodies in early 2022.

Thank you.

Ruby Perry
Andy Simon
(for Save Open Space-Burlington)