

Burlington Conservation Board Open Space Subcommittee

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Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2022 at 4:30 PM

In-Person and Remote Meeting

Present: Zoe Richards, Dan Cahill, Scott Gustin, Rebecca Roman, and Sharon Bushor

I. Project Updates

- **Urban Forest Plan**

Next step – need to put together a draft RFP. Look at the Nature Based Climate Solutions RFP – reach out to Jon Adams-Kollitz. Aim to have him speak with us at the December meeting. Aim for posting RFP by end of this year. Probably a full year process to adoption by the City Council. Dan Cahill suggested thinking about funding sources. Possible content resources include UVM, VT Forest, Parks, & Rec. US Forest Service. Things to include: Inventory; send out consultant RFP in January; present to City Council in fall 2023. Zoe Richards, what are other cities doing?

- **Conservation Legacy Fund**

Zoe Richards feels that the proposed revisions are in line with what went out to the voters originally: Acquisition, Stewardship, and Education. Rebecca Roman noted that the dollars actually going into acquisition are increasing with the fund now fully funded. Zoe Richards noted the importance of resiliency and stewardship in addition to acquisition. Sharon Bushor, feels there's a murky area now between Parks' budget and the Legacy Fund. She's concerned about draining the fund. Scott Gustin noted the process in place to review Legacy Fund expenditures. Multiple steps with multiple individuals within written guidelines. Dan Cahill, we may encounter some capacity issues down the line. He sees the Conservation Board playing a leadership role in this process.

II. Public Comment

Sharon Bushor commented on the Legacy Fund item. Noted the original 1 cent on the property tax as a funding basis. 30% of the funds for program administration and the remainder for acquisition. Proposed 30% for acquisition and 40% for other initiatives gives her pause. Pointed out possibility for future

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conservation opportunities. Questioned whether the proposed revisions need to go back to the voters.

III. Other Business

None.

IV. Adjournment

5:25 PM.