

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, July 10, 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), Scott Mapes (SM), Don Meals (DM), Ellen Kujawa (EK), Jeff Severson (JS)
- **Absent:** Sean Beckett (SM), Matt Moore (MM)
- **Public:**
- **Staff:** Scott Gustin, Ryan Morrison (Planning & Zoning)

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

Annual Organizational Meeting

Postpone to August or September meeting. MW, provide for discussion of positions on the agenda before nomination and election. SM, Chair should see to it that important items are not left to the end on any given agenda. ZR, we should establish goals for the year. ZR also questioned whether MM had been elected Chair in January. Board members introduced themselves to new member Ellen Kujawa.

Minutes

June 5, 2017

SM noted at the top of pg. 2, "report" should be "rare plant protection measures."

MW noted on pg. 2, 1st sentence under item 1, delete "would" and revise "recuse" to "recused." Second sentence, delete "a neighbor" and insert "Rhino Foods" and insert "on a neighboring property" at the end of the sentence.

A MOTION made by MW and SECONDED by ZR:

Accept the minutes of June 5, 2017 as amended.

Vote: 6-0-1

Board Comment

JS noted the purchase of the Blodgett property by Russ Scully. He's a local resident. Would it be fruitful for the Board to have a discussion with him? ZR said she talked to Dan Cahill about it this morning. She said that Dan would talk to Nina Safavi about it. Let him know of the Conservation Legacy Program. SY said that it may be used as a tech center.

DM noted his driveway reconstruction project. He noted the permit history – zoning, no building, but needs a building permit record to close the zoning permit out. He also noted his efforts to obtain a subsidy from the city to help out. He also said that the stormwater program staff asked for performance details. He has qualified for the Blue Program via LCI. The subsidy is \$1.50 per sf for the total project. He thinks the city and/or the Blue Program need to have a set of clear criteria for what constitutes an acceptable

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permeable driveway. They should be codified and consistent. The city has provided no incentive for him to do this. No lot coverage credit was provided and there is no stormwater fee credit.

SM noted the lot coverage versus pervious standard. For the design to qualify it needs to be designed to handle the 1-inch 24-hour storm. There are two parts: 1) is the driveway design to meet the standard, and 2) is the surface treated as lot coverage or green space under zoning? If these two items are met, the city should have some way to process and incentivize that. DM concurred.

ZR, what's the difference between permeable pavers and the concrete strips? SM, there are multiple systems. If you want to seek to be treated as permeable, demonstrate that the design handles 1-inch 24-hr storm. If you want it to be considered green space, that's limited to the green strip. The pervious pavement is not green space.

SM noted a recent green infrastructure article. It noted the failed green roof on the airport parking garage due to lack of maintenance. It's not okay. The Board had reviewed it. JS said that we should see what the Board did at the time. DM said that the green roof was to be maintained by the installer for 1 year. It was extended by 1 year. After that, it was up to the airport, but it was not done. DM, we need to keep this in mind for future applications – for ongoing maintenance. Maybe get someone from the airport commission to discuss.

Public comment

None.

Open Space Subcommittee

No meeting today.

Project Review

1. 17-1024FC/CU; 128 Lakeside Ave (Ward 5S, ELM) Fortieth Burlington, LLC

Installation of a fence along eastern side of property. A portion of the fence lies within a regulated wetland buffer.

JS recused himself from Board participation and represented the applicant.

Jeff Severson overviewed the project for the Board. He noted that the fence is not actually within the wetland, it may be within the 100' wetland buffer. He said that the wetland boundaries on the city's GIS layer are inaccurate. He contacted Tina Heath at the state as to better boundary information. A 130' long section of fence is proposed. Most of the fence will go along a berm along the eastern edge of the parking lot. The applicants had a significant hedge of cedars that died suddenly in 2015. They do not want to replant and are proposing a fence instead. JS said that most of the property is parking lot up to the boundary. The fence is in a section with a lawn area between the parking and the boundary. SY asked if staggering the fence would be appropriate here like that done at Rhino. JS said that doing so is not warranted here.

DM, is the 8' picket fence the actual proposed fence? Mr. Severson replied affirmatively.

SM, is the fence even within the 100' buffer? Mr. Severson, said he does not know for certain whether it's in the 100' city buffer. He'd say it was far out of the 50' state wetland buffer. SG noted the city's wetland map and process. The map triggers review. If onsite assessment demonstrates no encroachment, then wetland review can be avoided. Mr. Severson asserted that most of the things done on DPW's site have not been reviewed under the 100' buffer provisions. SG requested seeing documentation on which this assertion is based. Mr. Severson said that he would provide. SM, is impact is limited to fence postholes? Mr. Severson, yes.

A MOTION was made by MW and SECONDED by SY:

Recommend approval of the project as proposed.

Vote: 6-0-0, motion carried.

Update & Discussion

1. Conservation trails initiative

ZR, the City Council resolution passed last month. The presentation was done in conjunction with Parks & Recreation and was well received by the City Council. Following the resolution, the working group met (Richard Dean, Nick Warner, Nina Safavi, Dan Cahill, Alisha Daniel, Craig Smith, Matt Moore, Zoe Richards, Sean Beckett). The group is thinking about putting together a summit – considering where, what to address, and whether to have it. We are looking to build some enthusiasm about putting together a connected trail network. The group did agree on having a facilitator to work with the group and put the summit together.

JS, how much time do you think the facilitator is needed for (up to and including the summit and product thereof)? ZR, a few meetings. DM, there are two kinds of facilitation 1) generic consensus-building and 2) expertise in the subject matter that could craft a plan for moving forward. JS suggested Nick Warner or Stephanie Laharik.

SY, have you spoken with folks in Middlebury about their TAM? ZR, yes she's met with Amy Sheldon who was instrumental in that effort. ZR, we'll need some money to put towards this. She hopes that we can fundraise for this effort in addition to monies from Parks & Rec and WVPD. Perhaps some seed money could come from the Conservation Legacy Fund. SM recommended looking into the VT Recreational Facilities Grant program.

Move into Executive session at 6:48 PM

Leave executive session 7:09 PM

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.