



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2018

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Sarah Dopp, Penne Tompkins, Michael Mittag, Duncan Murdoch, Karen Ryder, Allan Strong, Rosanne Greco

Guests: Howard Taylor, Janet Bellavance

Absent: Betty Milizia, Sophie Mazowita

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes of July meeting: Tabled for action in Sept.

Treasurer and Membership Reports.

Michael reported that 20 new members have joined since the last meeting. Others are interested in joining. Sarah reported a shortage of membership pins. Penne will order more.

Michael presented the membership and financial reports which were reviewed and approved.

Sarah reported on the SBLT Board emergency meeting held on August 9 which focused on South Burlington's increased development and, in particular, Dorset Meadows. South Burlington neighbors have banded together to form Save Open Spaces South Burlington and have retained a lawyer to assist in preventing the land (corner of Nowland Farm Rd and Dorset St), known as Dorset Meadows, from being developed. The group had asked SBLT for a financial contribution to retain the lawyer. It was the decision of the Board that it would not be appropriate for SBLT to help pay for the lawyer. However, Allan suggested we might help by funding a consultant to examine the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) and how these and other proposed developments align with the city's Comprehensive Plan of 2016. The group agreed that this would be a good idea. Allan will look into the possibility of hiring a UVM graduate student or other appropriate person from the Rubenstein School to work on this.

Rosanne reported that the neighbors of the proposed Dorset Meadows are meeting this evening to develop strategies for stopping the Dorset Meadows development and invited SBLT Board members to attend the meeting.

Dr. Bill Keeton, UVM professor at the UVM Rubenstein School is willing to present the benefits of retaining the Edlund Martin property as it is to the Planning Commission. The Natural Resources Committee may be willing to co-sponsor this with us. They prepared a paper on Edlund/Martin for the PC also. The Planning Commission has heard from the developer and will again soon. In the near future, the Planning Commission will make a decision regarding their request to rezone the property to "residential", which would permit them to develop it.

Sarah reported that the Bread and Butter Farm is interested in purchasing the Auclair property for agricultural and open space purposes. They are working with several entities to arrange financing. Their deadline for accomplishing full financing is October 5.

Sarah also reported on the Ewing property, which covers both Shelburne and South Burlington of which 9.7 acres are in SB. The conservation of the SB piece is currently being processed with a finalization due date of January 31, 2019. A complication has arisen in that the Development Review Board (DRB) will not approve the conservation until they have reviewed the conservation plan. This is a problem since the Nature Conservancy, which is purchasing the land, does not create a formal conservation plan until the purchase is complete. Efforts are being made to work out this issue.

Paul Conner is scheduled to attend the October 24 SBLT Board meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26 at 4:45 pm at the Northfield Savings Bank on Shelburne Rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder
Secretary