



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2019

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Duncan Murdoch, Sarah Dopp, Karen Ryder, Janet Bellavance, Rosanne Greco, Michael Mittag, Allan Strong.

Guest: Jens Hilke

Absent: Sophie Mazowita

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Jens Hilke of Vermont Fish and Wildlife presented an overview of the current status of Vermont wildlife and climate change issues. Using a variety of photos, he reported that climate change and forest fragmentation are driving wildlife movement. Using a map of Stowe, he demonstrated this fragmentation through a view of tree acreage in that town. Though Stowe has the same tree acreage, the forests have been fragmented considerably since 2000 which affects species diversity. In the Champlain Valley there is more diversity but exactly how many species is unknown. The estimated # of species in Vermont is 24,000-43,000). Conservation advocates often focus public opinion on large mammals, but the real action is with the smaller creatures and their intertwined lives

The Biofinder website is a valuable tool in determining Vermont's conservation design. It contributes to the vision for the future of the state which revolves around forest and riparian networks and other physical features. The network is resilient because species will adapt to the physical landscape regardless of climate change. The landscape scale includes forest, fields and other physical features.

The Biofinder is focused on a statewide view and not specific to a town such as South Burlington. Local inventories of town species, forests and fields are key to the most applicable conservation designs. Surface water and riparian network buffers are most predictive of the health of local species. The larger the buffers the healthier the species. All the forest blocks in SB ought to be a focus of preservation. And riparian areas are vitally important, though some have been encroached upon already.

Following Jens Hilke's presentation, Board officers were elected. Nominated were the current office holders: Sarah Dopp, President; Michael Mittag, Treasurer; Karen Ryder, Secretary. Rosanne made a motion to approve by full slate, motion seconded by Allan. Vote was unanimous.

The minutes from the annual meeting were not available, so this was tabled till the May meeting.

Michael delivered the Treasurer and Membership reports which were approved following the motion by Rosanne which was seconded by Duncan.

The tasks and coverage schedule for Green Up Day on May 4 were reviewed. Janet is the point person with assistance from Michael.

Sarah shared thanks from our two recent grantees.

Sarah reminded the Board that the deadline for funding the Ewing conservation property is quickly approaching. Michael motioned that the SBLT donate \$2000 to the Nature Conservancy for the purchase, Rosanne seconded, and the donation was unanimously approved by Board members. Donations from individual Board members and the SB public were encouraged. Several have been given by SBLT members.

Rosanne asked that a discussion about expanding the Open Space Fund be placed on the next agenda. Janet said she might try to make up some SBLT notecards for thank you notes concerning GUD and for other occasions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 29 at the Northfield Savings Bank on Shelburne Rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder
Secretary