



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2019

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

Michael presented the membership and financial reports. There have been no substantial changes to either. Sarah made a motion to approve the minutes. Allan seconded. The reports were unanimously approved.

Sarah reported on an article in the Shelburne News regarding the 100 year old Maille farm in Shelburne. Also, she received a note from Bill Gilbert regarding the poor conditions existing at the Overlook. Michael will go to the Overlook and make notes regarding needed repairs. He will send his observations to Justin Rabideau in Public Works.

Updates on the IZ Committees

Michael has sent the Natural Resources Committee notification that there is a discrepancy between the state and city zoning. The state has Dorset Meadows classified as agricultural but there is no agricultural activity including haying. The City has the land classified as residential.

Allan reported on the status of the work of the Open Space Committee. The identified parcels are now ranked according to identified criteria. The Committee now needs to make decisions as to what attributes deserve high ranking. The process for writing the report is also being discussed. An introduction to the report will describe the process and input received from other IZ groups.

Michael reports that the TDR recommendations are near completion. He is making appointments with developers and landowners (who own 10+acres) to discuss their views on the TDRs. Though he was not able to attend last night's Planning Commission meeting, he understands that the Commission is moving toward extending the proposed Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance citywide (including the SEQ) in the future. This idea was put forward by Affordable Housing Committee. Rosanne noted that this implementation of this idea would be in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan. Rosanne is writing to the PC to point out this conflict.

Janet confirmed that Green Up Day responsibilities between the City and SBLT have been spelled out and are clear to both parties.

Pennies for Preservation (P4P)

Rosanne has spoken with Helen who reports that there will be no ballot in November. The next opportunity for a vote will be at Town Meeting in March 2020. If P4P is to be on the ballot SBLT needs to develop its game plan. The SBLT has been asked to give a presentation re: P4P at a joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting. The suggestion is that Bill Keeton (UVM) and Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist Community Wildlife Program VT Fish & Wildlife Department will each give a brief presentation prior to an SBLT presentation.

The purpose of P4P is to enable the City to buy desirable land from property owners in order to conserve it.

Rosanne determined that the ballot item will need to be submitted for warning on January 21, six weeks before Town Meeting Day. Therefore, SBLT will need to have the wording completed and approved by the City lawyer prior to that date.

Potential dates for presentation to the City Council/PC are 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18.

The following tasks were assigned and will be presented at an SBLT P4P special meeting on 9/20 and 10/1.

Rosanne: Communication and logistics for future City Council/PC meeting

Duncan: Potential organizations for funding

Allan: Costs for development vs. conservation

Janet: Dates for Jens and Bill Keeton to present to City Council

Karen: History of Open Space Fund

Given the special meeting(s) and Sarah's absence, there will be no regular SBLT meeting on 9/30.

The next regular meeting of the SBLT will be on December 3, 2020 at the Northfield Savings Bank on Shelburne Rd at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder
Secretary