



## South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2018

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Sarah Dopp, Sophie Mazowita, Betty Milizia, Allan Strong, Duncan Murdoch, Rosanne Greco, Karen Ryder

Absent: Michael Mittag, Penne Tompkins

Guests:

Ten SBLT members attended the June 26 Planning Commission meeting as the Edlund property was on the agenda. Frank von Turkovich, the developer, was scheduled to present his plan for the property for consideration of rezoning to residential. Following his presentation, several in the audience asked questions as did members of the Planning Commission. The Board discussed strategy for proceeding to oppose the rezoning. Sophie will contact a Field Naturalist at UVM to determine if, in fact, the property had been clear-cut in the 1960's during the construction of I-189 as was attested by Mr. von Turkovich. The list of community individuals that Michael has been keeping will be updated and we will decide how to keep these people up to date. The Board agreed that the following make the property unsuitable for residential development:

- 1) Inappropriate location for housing
- 2) The Eco services that the forest provides
- 3) Transportation issues
- 4) Clear cutting destruction
- 5) Impairment of Potash Brook
- 6) Incompatibility with Comprehensive Plan
- 7) Obstruction of wildlife corridor and habitat

Sarah related her conversation with Alan Long regarding the approx. 40 acre Long property for sale on SE Spear St. The city is requiring that the rear portion of the property be conserved for trails. The piece would need access through South Point Rd. Sarah presented Alan with a list of potential developers and contacts for possible conservation. She also suggested the possibility of building small sustainable houses.

The decision was made to create a survey of community members that would address their wishes for future conservation and development with the idea of proposing a \$0.01 addition to the tax rate for the purpose of building a fund to buy land. Rosanne, Duncan and Sophie agreed to put together this survey. Sarah suggested that this \$0.01 be added to the \$0.01 for the Conservation Fund already approved. This group was also charged with planning our approach to bringing the \$0.01 idea to the Council.

Sarah reported that the Ewing property of which 9.7 acres is in So Burlington is being sold to the Vt. Land Trust and Nature Conservancy. At this time the complex details are being worked out. The road through the property will need to be widened at some point and then narrowed again. The road would not be paved and only five houses would be allowed including the existing one.

Sarah reported that the Auclair parcel is under agreement. The Planning Commission decided not to put the Isham property on their work plan for the coming year.

## Public Relations.

A wide-ranging conversation on Facebook, use of MailChimp list; utilize powerful photos such as the O'Brien "scorched earth" photo or South Village area "before and after development"; we ought to be taking photos NOW of vulnerable or about-to-be developed spots so we have them later when we want to paint the contrasts (e.g. City Center existing, remaining wood). Duncan has a video camera and could take video interviews of board members in sensitive spots around town explaining why land conservation and open space are important to them. Put up on website. Send powerful photos to the OP too. Need to offer more programming to our members (talks, workshops, walks, films, and a conference. Need a subcommittee to plan a few pilot events for fall/winter to start the process, especially leading up to the March ballot if our issue gets on there. Could invite SBLT members not on board to help develop programs or perhaps partner with the NRC to do some things.

On motion of Rosanne we adjourned at 6:50.

Next meeting on July 25 at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder

Secretary