



## South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2019

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Duncan Murdoch, Michael Mittag, Karen Ryder, Rosanne Greco, Sarah Dopp, Janet Bellavance, Sophie Mazowita

Absent: Allan Strong

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

The Board reviewed and approved minutes for the past three meetings.

March 27: Minor changes were made and, after motions by Michael and second by Rosanne, the minutes were unanimously approved.

April 7: Michael motioned to approve, seconded by Rosanne and unanimously approved.

April 24: Michael motioned to approve, seconded by Rosanne and unanimously approved.

Michael presented the Treasurer and Membership report. A brief discussion resulted in a correction to total income to \$2250 (\$2000 transferred from the Investment Account) and a donation of \$250 specified for the Nature Conservancy's purchase of the Ewing property. Karen motioned for approval of the report, Rosanne seconded and report was unanimously approved. No changes to membership.

The Board sadly gave its farewell to Sophie who is moving to the West coast. For her many contributions to the Board and the successful SB Master Naturalist program, the Board offered its many thanks and best wishes for her future.

With Sophie's departure, there are two open Board positions, a one year and two year appointment, respectively. Board members were encouraged to solicit for candidates including using the SBLT website and the SB Community Watch site on Facebook to do so.

Sarah encouraged the Board members to donate to the Ewing property purchase. Of the \$40,000 remaining, \$22,250 has been raised, \$2750 which has been contributed by SBLT and its members. There may be other SBLT-related donations unknown to us. Sarah shared the TNC article on the Ewing conservation.

Sarah shared a Common Roots thank you note.

Michael presented final totals on Green Up Day and the Board critiqued the organization of the day. Michael reported the following:

6.4 tons total collected:  
291 tires  
380 bags  
by  
510 volunteers

Janet, who took on primary responsibility for the day suggested that the City take more responsibility for the day given the tremendous amount of time and number of tasks required for successful organization. Michael and Janet agreed to discuss this with City officials in July. Other organizations might also take on some of the duties specifically in the areas of securing prizes, food and managing the data base.

At Rosanne's suggestion, the Board discussed how to proceed with preserving and conserving more open space in South Burlington. It is clear that to do so, the City must buy critical parcels. Possibilities for raising money include partnering with other Land Trusts, push for donations and adding a small additional tax for the Open Space Fund. The most desirable properties need to be identified. Ways to encourage these actions could include offering tours of these areas including Underwood, trails, gardens and fields.

Further discussion centered on the process the SBLT to effect a ballot item for adding the tax for the Open Space funding. Suggestions: (1) discuss with Helen Riehle, City Council Chair, (2) put out that the seller's name will be attached to the property for marketing purposes, (3) Master Naturalists be asked to serve as Tour Guides. An additional suggestion is to reserve a position on the SBLT Board or give a free membership to a Master Naturalist. Rosanne will contact Helen to discuss process and next steps. Talking with individual Councilors will be necessary to get their buy-in to put this on the Nov. ballot.

The Open Space Committee will be presenting a public Open Forum to receive comments and suggestions from SB citizens on their process for looking at properties that might be conserved. Two dates in June, as yet not determined, will be set aside and advertised for this purpose. Sarah will also ask Allan for an SBLT opportunity to present to the Open Space Committee. Sarah announced that the regional conservation partnership of several Chittenden County towns is to be called The Champlain Valley Partnership. The Partnership is finalizing their agreements with the towns involved. This group gives towns the opportunity to share expertise on conservation issues. Recently, UVM environmental students participated in a project to determine commonalities among the member towns. They presented to the Partnership in May (copy handed around for SBLT board to see).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:30 June 26, 2019 at the Northfield Savings Bank on Shelburne Road. SBLT members and other interested SB residents are welcome to attend.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder  
Secretary