



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2017

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Sarah Dopp, Michael Mittag, Karen Ryder, Sophie Mazowita, Rosanne Greco, Allan Strong
Absent: Penne Tompkins, Betty Milizia
Guests: Bob Hyams, Duncan Murdo

Bob Hyams, Habitat Restoration Solutions, is contracted with South Village to fulfill part of the plan designated in their Act 250 plan that relates to clearing 100 acres of its open space from invasive plant species. Bob redesigned the plan, which was over 10 years old. He and his crew are in the process of controlling non-native invasives from the western portion of the piece. This is primarily glossy buckthorn. The process includes cutting the plants to the stump and applying a glyphosate herbicide. Since a good amount of native vegetation remains, it has not been necessary to perform any restoration. The invasive buckthorn remains in the eastern portion at an early stage and will be easier to remove now rather than wait. All the open space that has been cleared will require regular management to prevent regrowth. South Village has committed to three years of treatment. Bob remarked that invasive phragmites are plentiful in the Village wetlands and should be eliminated from areas of value.

The October minutes were reviewed and approved. They will be posted on the SBLT website. Sarah noted the deaths of members Carolyn Long and John Ewing. She mentioned that Jaime Hines has joined the Shelburne Select Board.

Michael presented the Treasurer's report. Renewal memberships are dribbling in. Michael will send another reminder. Some members may receive calls from Michael. Additional funds from the previous report have been added due to donations and investment earnings.

Sophie suggested that we add a credit card option on renewals. In the interim, she had also investigated the option of using PayPal for paying annual dues and joining fees. For a 501 (c) (3), this is not a difficult process. Sarah will locate the 501 (c) (3) designation papers as the group agreed this would be a good move.

The Board members present reviewed the STAR Communities categories and noted those in which we have an interest and potential involvement related to our mission. These categories included land protection, built environment, tree canopy/forest and water quality.

Sarah reviewed the status of several projects we are tracking.

Sophie enumerated updates to the website which still needed to be added: renewal notices, minutes and project highlights and accomplishments. More website work will be done in February.

She also related that she wants to start a Master Naturalist in South Burlington and is looking for a group of 8-10 people to train on identified objectives. Also need to identify organizations and businesses willing to fund resulting projects. Sophie would like to have this off the ground by next September. One full cycle of training would cost about \$4000.

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 35 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for December 27.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Ryder, Secretary