



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2020

Via Zoom

Present: Sarah Dopp, Karen Ryder, Janet Bellavance, Alyson Chalnick., Michael Mittag, Rosanne Greco, Allan Strong, Marty Reid, Carol McQuillen

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 pm. Via Zoom.

Sarah welcomed Alyson Chalnick to the Board and guests Carol McQuillen and Marty Reid.

Carol McQuillen reported on the activities of Common Roots.

Vegetable production at the Underwood property has been active on 2½ acres for 5½ years. The plan is to continue to increase agricultural production now that access to a water supply has been installed with a well and drip irrigation. An increase of 1½ acres is planned for next season.

This year the South Burlington Food Shelf has received 40,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables for distribution to eligible families.

Carol responded to questions from those present.

Additional production is not planned until the agricultural land and farm stand are expanded. The program hopes to sell fresh produce to South Burlington Schools in 2021.

Essex Technical School is interested in starting a program that would emphasize transferable farming skills.

Common Roots has taken over the management of the apple orchard on the former Marceau property on Hinesburg Road which is owned by Joe Larkin. This orchard contains many heirloom apple varieties. Apples are being pressed at the Chittenden Cider Mill.

Michael moved to approve the February 26, 2020 Board minutes, Allan seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Michael reported that membership currently stands at 124 including 18 life members. The current checking account balance is \$3,820 and the investment account balance is \$29,992.

Michael announced that the membership renewal notice will go out in November this year as we have transitioned to a January to December membership year. Karen moved that the Financial and Membership reports be approved, Allan seconded. The reports were unanimously approved.

Sarah moved the nomination of current officers and requested nominations from the floor.

Nominees were Sarah Dopp, President, Michael Mittag, Treasurer, Karen Ryder, Secretary.

Rosanne seconded and all were unanimously elected.

Two vacancies remain on the Board.

The Board proceeded to update the Land Trust Bylaws as follows:

Article 6.17. Michael moved that any membership renewal received after September 30 of a given year shall extend that membership until the end of the following year. Janet seconded and the Article was amended by unanimous vote.

Article 4.2. Michael moved that any nonpayment of membership dues after three months from the beginning of the membership year will result in the lapsing of that membership for the individual or family. Allan seconded and the article was amended by unanimous vote.

Allan requested that the Board review Article 6.12 in light of the occasional ad hoc conversations on Zoom during the pandemic by members of the Board. These discussions were held in order to stay abreast of City business.

In addition, further discussion on the date of the annual meeting is necessary and will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Other business.

The Board briefly reviewed the presentation of the SBLT Sewer Ordinance Proposal to the City Council. Janet will follow up by email to Amanda Lafferty and Helen Riehle, City Council Chair to confirm that they have received the Draft Ordinance.

Sarah informed the Board that 23 acres of the Jewett property are for sale for \$750,000 and she is concerned about the possibility of more development. Fifteen acres of the Auclair property are also being offered for sale for \$750,000 (at the North end which the Auclair family had initially retained).

A new trust known as the Vermont Agrarian Commons, has been formed to hold land in trust for agricultural production. Bread and Butter Farm is negotiating a 99-year lease with the Vermont Agrarian Commons for all their land (approximately 600 acres).

The owners of the Hill property on Hinesburg Road are interested in developing part of their land which is currently zoned as industrial open space. The property is adjacent to the proposed 12B exit from I-89.

**The next meeting, on ZOOM, is scheduled for October 28 at 4:30.
Michael will send the Agenda and the Zoom link.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder
Secretary.