



## South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020

Via Zoom

Present: Michael Mittag, Allan Strong, Alyson Chalnack, Janet Bellavance, Sarah Dopp, Rosanne Greco, Karen Ryder.

Guests: Ray Gonda, Steve Crowley.

Sarah called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

Janet, Allan and Karen reported on their contacts with City Councilor(s) regarding placing our Cents for Conservation proposal to raise city tax for Open Space Fund by \$0.02 more on the Town Meeting ballot. Some were open to the idea and suggested that the SBLT rebrand the focus to climate change issues, emphasize the science specific to the proposal, and make connections with the relevant City committees regarding the proposal.

Councilor(s) contacted did not feel there were any disadvantages to raising this concept at this particular time.

The discussion moved on to the status of the Sewer Ordinance proposal. Sarah did follow up with the City Council. The Council has heard nothing further from Paul Conner or Justin Rabidoux. The Affordable Housing Committee has concerns about the Ordinance as we proposed it. Sarah will follow up again if it is not on the agenda of the next City Council meeting.

At this juncture, Steve Crowley joined the meeting to present an overview of the Global Warming Solutions Act (H153) that was passed by the Vermont Legislature in the last session. Via a slide show, Steve discussed the goals, committees and their membership as well as the areas (fossil fuels, land and forest conservation, etc.) addressed by the bill and responded to questions by Board members. He has had 25 years focused on climate issues.

Following the presentation, the Board returned to regular business. Janet moved to approve the 9/30 meeting minutes. Michael seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Michael gave the financial and membership report. There had been little change though the investment account had slipped a little due to the volatility of the market. Michael moved to approve the reports as presented. Karen seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board returned to a discussion of the Bylaws, specifically as they pertain to the required timeframe for the Annual Meeting and election of officers. (Article V, Section 5.1).

Following discussion, Michael moved that the time frame remain as is, i.e., the Annual Meeting will take place within four months after the end of the Fiscal Year. Janet seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. The time prescribed for the meeting will be removed from this section. The Board

also reviewed the sections pertaining to Membership Meetings (Article V, Sections 5.1 – 5.3) and Article VI, Sections 6.10-6.12 regarding Board of Directors meetings.

Michael raised the question of whether the SBLT should carry liability insurance for officers. The answer was unclear. Michael will investigate with legal authorities and bring the matter to the next meeting.

Sarah reported to them on the September 23 meeting of the Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership.

She reported the six month extension of South Burlington's Interim Zoning period.

Williston is conserving some land on their side of the Muddy Brook as part of a development project. Due to its position adjacent to some of the old Auclair land, it may someday be possible to create a cross-border path.

Also, the Shelburne Natural Resources Committee is working to complete the agricultural part of the Ewing conservation agreement.

Sarah suggested placing a Letter to the Editor from the SBLT in The Other Paper regarding the successful Dorset Meadows conservation. Alyson offered to check this out with the purchasers and report back to the Board whether this would be welcome.

Due to the upcoming holidays, the Board decided to change the next two meetings from our regular meeting dates to Wednesday November 18 and Wednesday December 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M Ryder  
Secretary