

Regional Conservation Partnership Meeting
Friday, February 22, 2019; 1:00 PM
Champlain Room, City of South Burlington City Hall

Attendees: Kevin Dorn, SB City Manager; Ashley Parker, SB Project Manager; Tom Dipietro, SB Deputy Director of Public Works; Melinda Scott, Williston Conservation Planner; Dean Pierce, Shelburne Director of Planning & Zoning; Gail Albert, Chair Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning & Zoning; Mike Perrin, UVM NR206 Student; Phoebe Paron, UVM NR206 Student; Melanie Needle, Senior Planner, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Absent: Sarah Tischler, St. George Selectboard; Daryl Benoit, Town Planner, Town of Charlotte

Meeting kicked off around 1:05 PM.

Welcome and announcement regarding new potential partners from Charlotte and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

There were no changes to the Agenda.

We briefly discussed the minutes from the last meeting. Shelburne noted that they do not receive a cent every year for conservation and that it is a ballot item. Ashley noted that she would amend the minutes to reflect that. It was decided that we don't need to approve minutes for these meetings so the group moved on to the next topic.

We skipped the discussion of conservation priorities and needs of new partners because Charlotte was not able to attend. We moved on to reviewing the draft accord language.

Review of the Draft Accord Language (see draft accord document) –

- The group reviewed and discussed the draft Accord document. Several edits/changes were proposed. The group was OK with the edits and language presented at the meeting.
- The group discussed the partnership's name:
 - Suggestion of the Ewing Conservation District in honor of the conservation project that may be completed soon in South Burlington/Shelburne.
 - Suggestion of Southwest Chittenden County Conservation Partnership
 - Suggestion of Parks to Pasture – or some name similar to that.
 - Maybe determine name from survey responses (add to the survey) that the UVM students put out.
 - The consensus was that, for now, use the Southwest Chittenden County Conservation Partnership as the name.
- There was discussion about the Regional Conservation Partnership guidebook, and Ashley said she would send that around to all of the partners for reference.
- It was suggested that a bullet be added to the Accord to include non-water examples of conservation.

- It was decided that Ashley would amend the Accord based on the meeting discussion and send it around to all of the partners. Everyone would then present the Accord to those in their Towns and their Town's Selectboards.

Introduction of UVM Students – Discuss Potential Community Survey Questions –

- Mike Perrin and Phoebe Paron were introduced as the two students from UVM that are taking the NR206 class and will be assisting the partnership gather information.
- The students provided the group with a list of draft survey questions that they were hoping to finalize and distribute to the local communities.
- The idea was thrown out that maybe a web map would be useful in gathering information from likely stakeholders. This could be done at an in-person event.
- They could utilize Front Porch Forum, local papers, and social media to distribute any survey. Place a notice of the survey at all well used natural areas.
- The students will be wrapping up in mid-April, so there isn't a lot of time to conduct the surveys and analyze the results.
- There was the idea that they could set up interviews with key community stakeholders/leaders to get responses for short answer questions. The results of these interviews could help inform mapping and storytelling.
- The group discussed the idea of the students reviewing municipal open space plans to identify what the differences/similarities were between different plans. Look at what themes emerge from that review.
- The students will connect with CCRPC to potentially do some mapping.
- At the end of the discussion, the students acknowledged that they would summarize the Town Plans and identify any themes or opportunities that emerge.

Discussion of Regional Mapping Needs & CCRPC's Role in Partnership –

- CCRPC is interested in how it can help tell the story of this partnership.
- This partnership is not a duplication of any other effort that the CCRPC is already engaged in. It also aligns with their ECOS plan.
- The CCRPC is interested in and able to update maps, standardize the dataset, and identify gaps in mapping to help this group meet priorities and help us communicate.
- CCRPC indicated that will assist the group with a story map, based on the results of the UVM student's project. Melanie suggested that she would send some examples around to the group.
- CCRPC has a dataset for conserved/protected lands. Data will need to be standardized (come up with categories to include, like land use).
- Melanie indicated she will begin work on a regional partnership map that shows conserved/protected lands. It will be something that the students can add to their project.

Next Steps –

- Follow-up Meeting: **Wednesday, March 27, 2019; 1 PM; South Burlington Police Station, 19 Gregory Drive, 2nd Floor Conference Room**
- Revise Accord language and send to partners for review and use in discussions with Town stakeholders.

- We will be reviewing feedback received after partners discuss this partnership with community members.
- The UVM students will be providing the group with a status report of their project.
- CCRPC will be providing a draft map for review.
- The group is inviting Natural Resource Committee/Conservation Commission Chairs and local land trust representatives to the next meeting.