

**Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 2021; 1:30 PM**  
**Remote GotoMeeting**

Attendees: Ashley Parker, SB Project Manager; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning & Zoning; Sarah Gentry Tischler, St. George Selectboard; Gail Albert, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Don Rendall, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Abel Russ, St. George Development Review Board; Melanie Needle, Senior Planner, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife Department; Sarah Dopp, President South Burlington Land Trust; John Bossange, South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Nick Warner, Winooski Valley Park District; Mark LaBarr, Audubon VT

Absent: Melinda Scott, Williston Conservation Planner; Bob Hyams, Hinesburg Conservation Commission; Kate Kelly, Hinesburg Conservation Commission

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Meeting began at approximately 2:05 PM.

Welcome and Round of introductions.

**Changes or additions to Agenda –**

**Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting –**

The meeting minutes were reviewed from October 27<sup>th</sup>, and were accepted without changes.

**Partner News and/or Updates –**

Hinesburg continues to work on an interesting conservation project that involves an additional 250-acres of conserved land to the Town Forest. It will also involve a conservation easement that will include the 800-acre Town Forest. As of now, it sounds like these acres will be formally conserved in February.

The South Burlington Land Trust noted that the City's LDR updates are ongoing. Council is going to be asked to review and possibly adopt the updates in January.

Jens reported that they have received 150K to re-do the Vermont conservation design platform. This next project will look at forest blocks to have them based on more accurate LIDAR data. It will change the current forest block layer by including more connected lands. The state will also be looking at wildlife road crossings and riparian connectivity. The project should be completed by the end of 2023.

**Project Discussion: Focus Area Mapping Update & Discussion –**

The group discussed how best to label the "conserved areas" parcels on the map. Should this term be protected lands or natural resources with a conservation mission. The group agreed to use "protected lands", and the revised map is good to go. There was discussion around adding points of interests or certain names of stream/rivers. There was also a comment about an error in the map title, and Melanie

noted she would correct that. There was also a suggestion of adding the partners and to have a date the map was made.

#### **Review & Discuss Focus Area Outreach Piece -**

There was a work session to continue revising the outreach piece.

Ashley will add the definition of the “protected lands” parcels on the map and include it in the outreach piece.

#### **Discuss: CVCP Land Acknowledgement –**

Ashley noted that the South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee will be talking about this next month.

The overall question is: should the CVCP take part in this? What should our role be? Should the partnership make a recommendation?

Part of the discussion included how the partnership would use a land acknowledgement? Some folks have seen organization use it as part of events they run; part of the group’s by-laws; and in mission statements. Jens noted that he has a statement provided by Chief Stevens that could provide some guidance on how the CVCP could integrate a land acknowledgement into its practice. Ashley will send this around for review at the next meeting.

#### **Project Updates –**

Ashley and Mark provided an overview of how the invasive plant removal went at the Goodrich parcel, including a planting event the WVPD held following the removal. Ashley indicated she would share the summary she drafted of the event so that the partners could also share that with their communities. Mark also noted that Audubon will be doing some follow-up in the spring, and will likely also do some bird surveys. He indicated that there might be an opportunity for a bird banding event at Goodrich in the spring.

St. George is going to be holding a Community Conversation. Tomorrow, they will be presenting an idea to the Selectboard of having this conversation. They have hired a facilitator to guide it, and hope to engage the entire community through a series of engagement opportunities. Sarah will let the partners know how this first presentation goes, and will also let the partnership know how it can be supportive of this effort.

The next meeting has been rescheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM. Ashley will send around the agenda and virtual meeting info closer to.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 pm.