

**Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 15, 2021; 1:30 PM**  
**Remote GotoMeeting**

Attendees: Ashley Parker, SB Project Manager; Melinda Scott, Williston Conservation Planner; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning & Zoning; Gail Albert, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Abel Russ, St. George Development Review Board; Melanie Needle, Senior Planner, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; Sarah Dopp, President South Burlington Land Trust; John Bossange, South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Duncan Murdoch, The Intervale

Absent: Sarah Gentry Tischler, St. George Selectboard; Don Rendall, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Bob Hyams, Hinesburg Conservation Commission; Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife Department; Kate Kelly, Hinesburg Conservation Commission; Nick Warner, Winooski Valley Park District; Mark LaBarr, Audubon VT

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Meeting began at approximately 1:35 PM.

Welcome and Round of introductions.

**Changes or additions to Agenda –**

**Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting –**

The meeting minutes were reviewed from November 17<sup>th</sup>. One change was made and the minutes were accepted as amended.

**Partner News and/or Updates –**

Duncan wanted to share the latest update on the Intervale's trail and invasive plant management program. Their volunteer initiative is off to a great start. They provide some tools to the community to engage and educate them in stewardship activities. They've developed a GIS dashboard for collecting data from all of their Volunteer Trail Stewards. There are currently more than 150 trail stewards on their mailing list. Duncan described the process for reporting trail maintenance needs as a "See Click Fix" for trails. It also includes other stewardship needs, like invasive plant management. The program also involves a training via several videos.

John Bossange shared that he has drafted some commentary for VTDigger that he wants to share with the group and asked Ashley to distribute. He also shared that the South Burlington NRCC is working on a City Open Space Plan that involves defining open space and how to inventory open space in the City.

Sarah Dopp relayed that there is a date of January 3<sup>rd</sup> for South Burlington to take action on the revised LDRs.

Abel Russ shared that Sarah's been encouraging a community engagement process in St. George. It started around the question of what to do with two Town owned lots. They are hoping to talk to

residents early in the next year. Options currently include going door-to-door, sending out a survey, among others.

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

It was suggested that a date be added to the map, so Melanie will add that. Melanie also thought it would be a good idea to add a list of the participating Towns rather than logos, and the group agreed. Alex also asked if Melanie could adjust the red line in Hinesburg so that it appeared more consistent with the others.

Melanie will incorporate these last few additions and will finalize the map. She'll send it on once it's done.

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

The group decided to delete the section on the "Focus Area Map" as it was redundant. There was a discussion about how carbon sequestration and climate change fit into this piece and the work the group is focused on. After discussion, there was language related to climate change added to the focus piece. A date of when the document was finalized was also added.

Ashley was going to make sure the document was finished and then will send it around to the group. She will also work on uploading it to the website page so that partners can share a link to the document (and the map) with interested community members.

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

Ashley provided a brief overview of the land acknowledgement conversations in South Burlington, specifically with the City's Natural Resources & Conservation Committee. Shelburne is just starting an Equity Committee, and it hasn't done a lot of work yet.

Duncan with the Intervale Center stated that they have an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion statement, and they are just now taking on the Land Acknowledgement piece. Their group has been speaking with indigenous populations and there are a lot of differing opinions on the topic. He noted there had been a class on Land Acknowledgements at Shelburne Farms and recommended the group look into that.

Melinda relayed that Williston has been considering along indigenous groups to have access to farmable land on Town owned land.

Ashley noted that the South Burlington Library is looking to hold a series of talks on equity topics, and will share with the partners as it is developed and released.

The group discussed next steps. A long-term idea is to connect with potential partners and possibly have a panel of experts in this area come to a partnership meeting and share these different viewpoints. This may be an event that the partners would want to consider compensating those participating.

In the short-term – the municipal partners agreed to reach out to all groups and assess what each is doing related to equity, diversity and inclusion and report back in January. This way we can assess where everyone is at.

**Future Project Ideas –**

There was interest in the group revisiting the partner list and strategizing how best to conduct engagement in the new year, especially now that there is an outreach piece and map to share with potential partners.

It was also suggested that the group brings Alicia in to discuss the VT Master Naturalist Fall 2022 class.

There will be a land acknowledgement check in.

Climate change is a new topic for discussion. Consider looking at the progress on the state climate action plan and check in on what other municipalities are doing.

The next meeting will be January 26<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM. Ashley will send around the agenda and virtual meeting info closer to.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:10 pm.