

**Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022; 1:30 PM**  
**Remote GotoMeeting**

Attendees: Ashley Parker, SB Project Manager; Melinda Scott, Williston Conservation Planner; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning & Zoning; Abel Russ, St. George Development Review Board; Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife Department; Sarah Dopp, President South Burlington Land Trust; John Bossange, South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Alicia Daniel, VT Master Naturalist; Tim Larned, Winooski Valley Park District; Mark LaBarr, Audubon VT; Laura Meyer, VT Master Naturalist

Absent: Sarah Gentry Tischler, St. George Selectboard; Gail Albert, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Don Rendall, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Bob Hyams, Hinesburg Conservation Commission; Melanie Needle, Senior Planner, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; Kate Kelly, Hinesburg Conservation Commission; Nick Warner, Winooski Valley Park District

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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 December 15<sup>th</sup>. No edits were requested and the minutes were accepted as-is.

**Partner News and/or Updates –**

Jens shared that the state is continuing its work updating the landscape inventory and assessment of road segments, specifically looking at wildlife crossings. They are looking for suggestions of locations to check, including municipal infrastructure (like culverts). If you have an idea, please send it to Jens. The state is also piloting a road kill collector app. Melinda is also working on the same project as Jens and is looking at crossings in Williston.

**Muddy Brook Master Naturalist Class –**

Alicia Daniel and Laura Meyer joined the partnership to relay some updates associated with the Muddy Brook Master Naturalist class scheduled to take place in fall 2022. Alicia shared that they already have people on the waitlist, and there is a good mix of folks from most of the partner towns (4 out of the 5 – not St. George). The maximum number for a class is 20. There isn't a need for active recruitment at this time. If the partners want to selectively recruit individuals that might be interested, they can do that. The program likes to have a project list for the students to choose from when it is time for them to choose a project to take on. Alicia asked if the group could put together a list of potential projects for consideration. They are about a year out from needing these, but if they have a chance to review proposed projects now that is helpful.

The class is set to start on September 11<sup>th</sup>. They have not already advertised, but don't feel that they need to. They will be releasing the application in April. It was suggested that the partners check back in with Alicia in late May/early June to confirm that there is regional participation in this year's class.

#### **Review Potential Partner List -**

The group discussed ways to utilize potential partners. After looking at the three buckets of project opportunities, the group decided to focus on education/outreach as being an avenue for projects sitting in the other two buckets.

The group decided to focus on two different engagement projects. One being a year-long effort of talks/walks throughout the region. Topics would range on a variety of natural resource issues, but would also engage a lot of other partners. The partnership discussed trying out a pilot project that would have maybe quarterly/seasonal events. Melinda and Ashley said they would work on putting this together.

The second engagement project will be a roundtable with other land trusts to get folks together and talk about a regional conservation mission. This could tentatively be in March, and the group could invite members of the public to attend. Alex and Sarah said they would work on organizing this effort.

#### **Possible CVCP Logo –**

Ashley shared a possible logo for the group to consider. Overall, the group liked it. Some partners discussed adding some blue to symbolize water, or adding mountains. Generally, folks liked it and would be happy if it stayed as-is. Ashley said she would go back and see if minor adjustments could be made based on this feedback.

#### **Review Status of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Region –**

Alex reported that Hinesburg hasn't done much in this area yet. Ashley said South Burlington is working on getting an internal group together to discuss the topic. Williston did come up with a land acknowledgement statement for Catamount. Laura Meyer helped work on that and might be a good connection. Williston also altered their management plan and added language regarding sustainable harvesting to support local and indigenous uses of land.

The next meeting will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 PM. Ashley will send around the agenda and virtual meeting info closer to.

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:05 pm.