

**Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022; 1:30 PM**  
**Remote GotoMeeting**

Attendees: Ashley Parker, SB Project Manager; Melinda Scott, Williston Conservation Planner; Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg Director of Planning & Zoning; Sarah Gentry Tischler, St. George Selectboard; Adele Gravitz, Shelburne Planning Director; John Bossange, South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Gail Albert, Shelburne Natural Resources & Conservation Committee; Sarah Dopp, President South Burlington Land Trust; Tim Larned, Winooski Valley Park District; Mark LaBarr, Audubon VT; Sabina Ernst, Jericho Conservation Commission & Planning Commission; Betsy Dunn, Essex Conservation & Trail Committee; Erin DeVries, Essex Conservation & Trail Committee; Darren Schibler, Essex Town Planner

Absent: Abel Russ, St. George Development Review Board; Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife Department; 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 February 23<sup>rd</sup>. No edits were requested and the minutes were accepted as-is.

**Partner News and/or Updates –**

John Bossange shared that the South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee is exploring and researching options for a pesticide ordinance.

Tim Larned shared that the WVPD tentatively received 50K from a grant to rebuild a section of a wetland walk that is about 30 years old.

Betsy Dunn shared that Essex is working on holding their annual cleanup this spring. They have also invited Ethan Tapper to talk about invasive plants and their management.

Ashley Parker shared that the City of South Burlington rescheduled the March hike for March 26<sup>th</sup>, and there will be a hike led by Ethan on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion: Jericho & Essex as Potential New Partners:**

Ashley shared that some representatives from both Essex and Jericho responded to her posting announcing the partnership through the AVCC listserv. She invited members to join upcoming meetings

of the partnership to learn more about the group and consider officially joining. She proposed using this portion of the meeting to allow these representatives to ask the group questions, share conservation goals, and discuss the goals of the partnership.

Darren shared that he's interested in connecting with others on more regional issues. He wants to understand how others are incorporating their work related to Act 171, and the Essex Natural Resources Committee is talking about becoming a Commission.

There was a question on how the South Burlington Land Trust (SBLT) and the South Burlington Natural Resources & Conservation Committee work together or separately. Sarah Dopp shared that the SBLT formed at a time where they felt a group needed to fill the role of a conservation commission in the City. John Bossange shared that the Committee is advisory to the City Council.

Sabina described the role of the Jericho Conservation Commission in relation to their Selectboard. Alex described the relationship between the Hinesburg Land Trust and the Hinesburg Conservation Commission. Gail talked about the challenge of the Shelburne NRCC in inserting themselves into the Shelburne development review process.

Ashley shared that a few years ago, the SB NRCC developed a handout on important natural resource considerations for use by the SB DRB and Planning & Zoning. It was something they hoped would be inserted into the development review process as individuals came to Planning to discuss development opportunities.

Shelburne shared that they are working on mapping to improve and justify project recommendations.

#### **Project Update: Land Trust Roundtable –**

The work group provided an overview of what they're hoping to do. They were looking to hold this roundtable during the CVCP's April meeting, but there's already a VLT event that day. They will now propose the CVCP May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to folks they were inviting to the April meeting. The intent will be to hold this roundtable conversation with the partnership members first, and then consider a bigger conversation with other members of the public later.

#### **Project Update: St. George Town Gathering –**

Sarah Tischler shared that the Town event will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. There will be a tent with information tables that can be set up before or after 10. It was hoped that the CVCP could have a presence that day. At this time, Sarah Dopp has offered to sit at the CVCP table. There will be free food and other activities. All are welcome.

Ashley is looking into costs for outreach materials (i.e.: tablecloth, banners, poster boards, etc.) and will reach back out to partners regarding funding support.

Sarah T. is still interested in having Ethan Tapper lead a hike in St. George, but she noted that this event may not be the best opportunity for that. Perhaps a separate date/time. It was suggested that Ashley/Melinda could connect with Ethan to discuss a future hike opportunity.

**Project Update: Regional Conservation Stewardship Events -**

Ashley shared the latest list of regional stewardship events. She also noted that she was still checking on potential parking concerns for a June bird banding event at Goodrich.

Tim suggested that WVPD could organize an Earth Day themed event focused on invasive plant removal at Goodrich. It could possibly be on 4/23 with the WVPD crew. Tim will connect with Ashley to share details related to any event for promotional purposes.

Ashley noted that she will also connect with Alex separately to check on possible event opportunities in the Hinesburg area.

**Discussion: Project Ideas for Fall Muddy Brook Master Naturalist Class –**

No additional project ideas were mentioned. Ashley noted that she would pass the current list on to Alicia for consideration.

The next meeting will be April 27<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 3:00 pm.