

## Champlain Valley Conservation Partnership Agreement

### Overview –

In the spring of 2019, we the undersigned municipalities agree to demonstrate leadership and action on land conservation issues affecting all of our communities. We are committed to working collaboratively to conserve and manage land at a regional scale. We understand that there are numerous other local, regional, state, and national partners that could assist us in our work, and it is a priority for us to engage and work with other partners and landowners to achieve our goals.

### Vision –

Our Vision is of a landscape that provides connected open space for wildlife and humans—and where open spaces are large enough to sustain a wide array of species. We recognize that our natural resources are not confined to political boundaries, and thus require landscape-scale management. Our efforts are collaborative, and the outcome of our efforts will be the improved connection of our shared natural landscape.

### Mission –

The undersigned municipalities seek to conserve, restore, and enhance important natural resources within and across our municipal boundaries. More specifically, the partnership aims to increase the amount of connected conserved land, improve water quality in streams and rivers flowing into Lake Champlain, protect agricultural land, and prevent the fragmentation of wildlife habitat and riparian corridors. Participating municipalities will use various tools, including: purchase of land and rights in land, upland habitat restoration, wetland and stream restoration, community outreach, land use planning, and the sharing of knowledge and experience.

### Goals –

Working together with other numerous local, regional, state, and national partners, we aim to:

- Prioritize regionally significant parcels for conservation/protection and to identify potential actions that would conserve/protect the parcels identified.
- Identify “best practices” for the stewardship of conserved land.
- Maintain the connectivity and integrity of forest blocks in an effort to promote biological diversity and allow for the movement of wildlife in response to climate and land use changes.
- Improve the water quality of Lake Champlain by developing a strategy for wetland and riparian protection and/or restoration that can be applied throughout the partnership area.
- Understand issues surrounding public access on conserved lands, and develop a plan that improves public access where appropriate and allows for connections throughout the partnership area where it makes sense.
- Develop and apply a public engagement strategy that meaningfully involves our communities and other partners.
- Share individual strategies currently in use within our own municipality to conserve/protect land, steward land, and engage the public so that the entire partnership can benefit from existing experience and knowledge and pave the way for a shared conservation approach that is employed throughout the region.

### Partnership Commitments –

The undersigned municipalities acknowledge the following:

- There is no financial obligation required of any municipality or future partner for participating in this partnership.
- Any entity participating in this partnership will need to appoint a representative to attend regular meetings.

We, the undersigned, agree to work together on matters of land conservation and stewardship that affect our region’s landscape.

Helen Riehl

Representative of the City of South Burlington

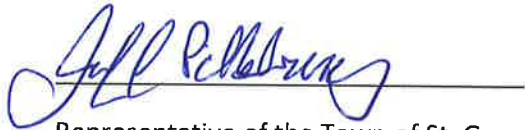
*Richard Maguire*

Representative of the Town of Williston

*Trump Story*  
Representative of the Town of Shelburne

Sam R. Paul

Representative of the Town of Hinesburg

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeff Pellabron", written over a horizontal line.

Representative of the Town of St. George