



Interim Zoning Committee/Commission Status Report August 1, 2019 Open Space

Brief description of the charge/focus of the Committee's work and main areas of discussion (4-5 sentences max):

The prioritization for conservation of existing open spaces, forest blocks, and working landscapes in South Burlington in the sustenance of our natural ecosystems, scenic viewsheds, and river corridors. Under a prior Interim Bylaw, an Open Space Report was completed (April 2014), which includes proposed Land Development Regulations in Appendix D and provides a basis for the work to be accomplished by the current Open Space Committee.

Planned Committee Deliverables (bullet list or brief description): [examples- report with policy recommendations, draft LDR language on X topic, list or map of priorities, etc.]

We plan to provide a document that reports on an assessment of approximately 180 parcels in South Burlington that are >4 acres in size and <10 impervious surface. The committee will use this assessment to recommend 10-20 parcels in the city that should be prioritized for conservation/protection.

The document will follow this general outline:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction/Context
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion/Caveats

We plan to provide an appendix that will show the rankings for each parcel that we assessed and a short narrative about the parcel.

Key Recommendations: (if known, if not known yet provide a short description of where the Committee is at in this subject area and what might be anticipated):

We cannot provide a list of the parcels that we will recommend at this time as we are still finalizing our assessments. However, the key recommendation will be the list of 10-20 parcels for which the city should prioritize conservation/protection.

Work remaining for the Committee & estimated time to completion:

We are still struggling with some technical issues with our spatial database that seem to be taking longer to resolve than anticipated. Our next meeting is 13 August, at which time we should be finalizing our list of priority parcels. We anticipate that our work will be completed by the end of August.

Next steps after your committee's work is completed: [ie, what should the Commission & Council anticipate for their work plans this fall & beyond]

We will provide some suggestions for how best to conserve/protect that parcels that we prioritize. However, finalizing best strategies for on-the-ground conservation will be up to City Council and the Planning Commission. Additionally, it is likely that some parcels that are recommended for conservation will be ones that are already targeted for development. We realize that some parcels may be far enough along in the planning/permitting process that conservation is no longer an option. However, our hope is that rather than "sit on a shelf," this report would be used at the end of Interim Zoning to both prioritize conservation and slow development in areas that have significant natural resource values.

Do any of your Committee's deliverables interact with or depend upon on the work of other IZ Committees/ Boards? If so, in what manner:

Probably the most important interaction with our committee will be any changes to regulatory protection of natural resources and how conservation PUDs are implemented. Given the relatively low number of properties that we recommend for conservation/protection, we feel it would be best if we were not recommending parcels that are in essence de facto conserved.

Other notes:

None at this time.