

South Burlington Planning & Zoning

CityPlan 2024 Community Conversations

Southeast Neighborhoods

Thursday, March 9, 2023

[THESE NOTES REFLECT SUMMARIZED COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC AT THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION, NOT ANY COMMITMENT BY THE CITY TO ANY PARTICULAR POLICY POSITION; THEY ARE NOT VERBATIM QUOTES AND HAVE NOT BEEN EDITED]

13 Attendees

Human-Focused

- improve public transportation in the SEQ
- finish the conservation easement in the Wheeler Nature Park (resulting from the JAM Golf conservation easement)
- narrow transportation focus to protected bike lanes; protect rural lands
- more connections to the rest of the community, additional bus connections (e.g. to Village at Dorset Park), clean delineation of bike lanes v. pedestrian paths, etc., bike/ped/traffic infrastructure installed in advance of developing housing
- SEQ has open space and fresh air, access to passive recreation, lots is publicly accessible, parkland, etc., walking access to golf course especially in winter
- most people have to drive to the SEQ to access open space, public transportation doesn't access it
- closer we are to nature, the healthier we are
- Veterans Memorial Park is an amazing resource for sports, events, etc., community mingles and gathers there, would be great to have community center for year-round use of that area
- more community gardens/farming

Inclusive, Fair, & Just

- parks are an asset for the public that are open to the public who can get there, public transit is an issue,
- not accessible for people with handicaps
- if you can walk you can enjoy the benefits
- unless you have a car, you can't go to Underwood, Wheeler, etc.
- households who don't have a car, people in other households are non-drivers, 24% of households have a person with a disability of some kind, centering the summer community activities at Veterans' leaves out significant populations; issue of no open space available on Shelburne Road
- running a shuttle for events, from U Mall, from elementary schools
- large park areas near dense areas and with public transportation in NYC, etc.
- natural development on Shelburne Road and Williston Road, SEQ was farms
- benefits to living in a dense area; how do we have the dense population and easy access to services that encourages dynamic activity, but make it possible to access open space?

What is the SEQ's role in meeting housing demand?

- can't have dense housing because you lose the nature

- increasing density on existing built areas, lots with built homes can add additional homes, but not with development of a large 20 acre parcel into a green parcel
- rezoning the R1 into R3, 4, etc. so there is opportunity to build more
- integrated system

Climate-Resilient

- SEQ is only area that is climate-resilient in Southeast Quadrant; expand wetland buffers, expand habitat blocks, preserve grasslands, preserve woodlands, reforestation of open lands,
- public transportation expansion
- issue of transportation into South Burlington from other areas
- development of charging stations system
- we have a Climate Action Plan adopted by the City Council - implement the plan adopted by the City; O'Brien development has affordable units, including 10 units with support from COTS; we need to now be thinking of a serious implementation of the CAP; we've sacrificed for housing

Opportunity-oriented

- every community has its own character, goal is not to homogenize, nice to have in close proximity with each other