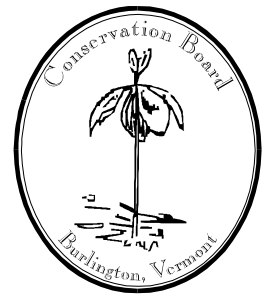


Burlington Conservation Board Open Space Subcommittee

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Open Space Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2026 at 4:30 PM

311 North Avenue, Conference Room or Remote via Zoom

Present: Scott Gustin, Dan Cahill, Jules Shen, Zoe Richards, Rebecca Roman, Dianne Hannigan, Laura Hill, Michelle Lockhart, Clara ___, & Sharon Bushor.

I. Public Comment

Sharon Bushor was present and had comments for the full Conservation Board meeting.

II. Discussion Items

- Nature Based Climate Solutions Pilot Project

Dan overviewed the concept and the local interest in re-wilding residential backyards. Dan noted about 30% of the Legacy Fund goes to grant funding for NBCS. The new Open Space Plan identifies stewardship zones. There is opportunity here to create a pilot project to bring the two together and promote/facilitate native plant integration into our neighborhoods.

ZR mentioned the stewardship zones. Dan, alternatively, are there things in place already that we can support/enhance rather than pilot a whole new thing? Michelle noted the Sea Grant's residential stormwater program that contains native planting and fertilizer reduction components. Laura Hill, growing out priority species for seed production, focus of sabbatical this upcoming fall. We've not yet looked at the methods to convert lawn to native plantings. Maybe its something Dianne and company could help with.

Dan noted the NBCS grant cycle. Awarded grants are firmed up sometime in March every year. What about multi-year grant programing? ZR, the Legacy Fund could provide consistency in funding of these local efforts.

RR summarized. Set aside ~ \$40 (up to) for next year's grant round. Figure out what systems could support the project. Figure out what local organizations can enable and support the implementation. Dan, figure out who's doing what. RR, something along the lines of: This is the project we're going to do, who is going to do what? Dan, we can put together a concept to review and refine at our August open space meeting. Jules would like communications to be part of the ongoing discussions.

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III. Adjournment

5:30 PM.