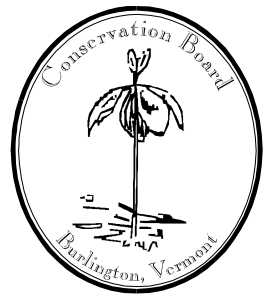


Burlington Conservation Board

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*Rebecca Roman, Chair
Ryan Crehan, Vice Chair
Zoe Richards
Dale Azaria
Evan Horne
Kelly Farrell
Alan Reichard
Lee Toomey*



Conservation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2026 – 5:30 pm

In-Person Meeting

Attendance

- **Board Members:** Rebecca Roman (RR), Dale Azaria (DA), Lee Toomey (LT)
- **Absent:** Zoe Richards (ZR), Alan Reichard (AR), Ryan Crehan (RC), Kelly Farrell (KF), Evan Horne (EH)
- **Public:** August Talamadge, Sharon Bushor (phone)
- **Staff:** Dan Cahill (Parks & Rec), Sarah Morgan (City Planning)

RR, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Minutes

August 3, 2026 minutes

Postponed due to lack of a quorum.

Board Comment

None.

Public Comment

August Talamadge, staffer from VYCC, spoke on behalf of VYCC conservation crews.

Sharon Bushor commented as to resiliency. Value and role the urban forest and trees play in keeping this section of the planet livable are spot on. The question asking about our climate vulnerabilities brings to mind drought, warming temperatures and unpredictable seasonal temperatures. How to sustain and grow our urban forest brings to mind minimal human-controlled intervention into the natural process of tree decomposition and what this process sustains. Preservation of small groves of trees like the Silver Maples in the Intervale are another example.

Update & Discussion

1. Natural Resource Overlay District Zoning Amendment

Consideration of draft changes to include provisions for rare, threatened, and endangered species

Sarah Morgan from City Planning attended to present on the Natural Resource District Zoning Amendment. Burlington is seeking Tier1a status for specific areas in the City identified as growth areas.

The amendments are intended to decrease duplication of state and local permit and development processes.

The programs and services of the Dept. of Permitting & Inspections are accessible to people with disabilities. For accessibility information call 865-7188.

Questions were asked about the difference between a field visit and field verification as well as the vetting process when applicants are being required to provide field verification, inventory, and assessment.

DA shared that Burlington doesn't have to follow the ACT250 standard only. We can adopt our specific framework to be whatever we want.

Sarah shared that currently Burlington is not looking to extend beyond aligning with State standards.

Discussion ensued to determine what is considered in the 10-acre minimum.

Sarah, we may need to define project as to determining the applicability of 10 acres.

Dan Cahill asked where to find the map that shows where the Tier 1A applicable areas are.

2. Conservation Board Resiliency Priorities for the Comprehensive Plan

Discussion and identification of resiliency priorities to include in the Comp Plan

The board members present generated the following list of potential resiliency priorities:

- Raw sewage in the lake; waste water management
- ONE has less trees and green spaces and parks and gardens
- South end has less community gardens
- Use of the Urban Reserve
- Re-naturalize the shoreline of the Urban Reserve
- Building and infrastructure within shoreline, floodplain, and wetlands
- Permanent protections for our public open spaces
- Impervious surfaces, and surface runoff
- Increasing stormwater management minimums for developments
- More walkability, bike access, and bus infrastructure - reducing reliance on cars
- Stewardship Zones - as defined and outlined in the Open Space Plan
- Sustainably integrated local food systems in Burlington proper
 - Permanent infrastructure for farmer's market?
 - Edible food forest
- Deer management
- Old housing stock and higher energy use needed for the extreme temperatures
- Re-emphasize the amount of work that went into the OSP and what a high quality product it is
 - The comp plan should start THERE!! We are generating some specific ideas, but GO TO THE OPEN SPACE PLAN. Everything we need to say is IN THAT PLAN.

3. Conservation Legacy Fund Grant Application

Updates & pilot program for the upcoming grant program

Dan Cahill said he'd send a Doodle poll to the review committee in order to set January application review dates. Up to \$8,000 will be set aside for the neighborhood plant pilot project.

Adjournment

7:27 PM.